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PLUS 8 PAGE PULLOUT TO KICKSTART 2026

Report warns green drive could cost Britons £9trillion, far above official figures

TELL TRUTH ON 'FANTASY' COST OF NET ZERO PUSH

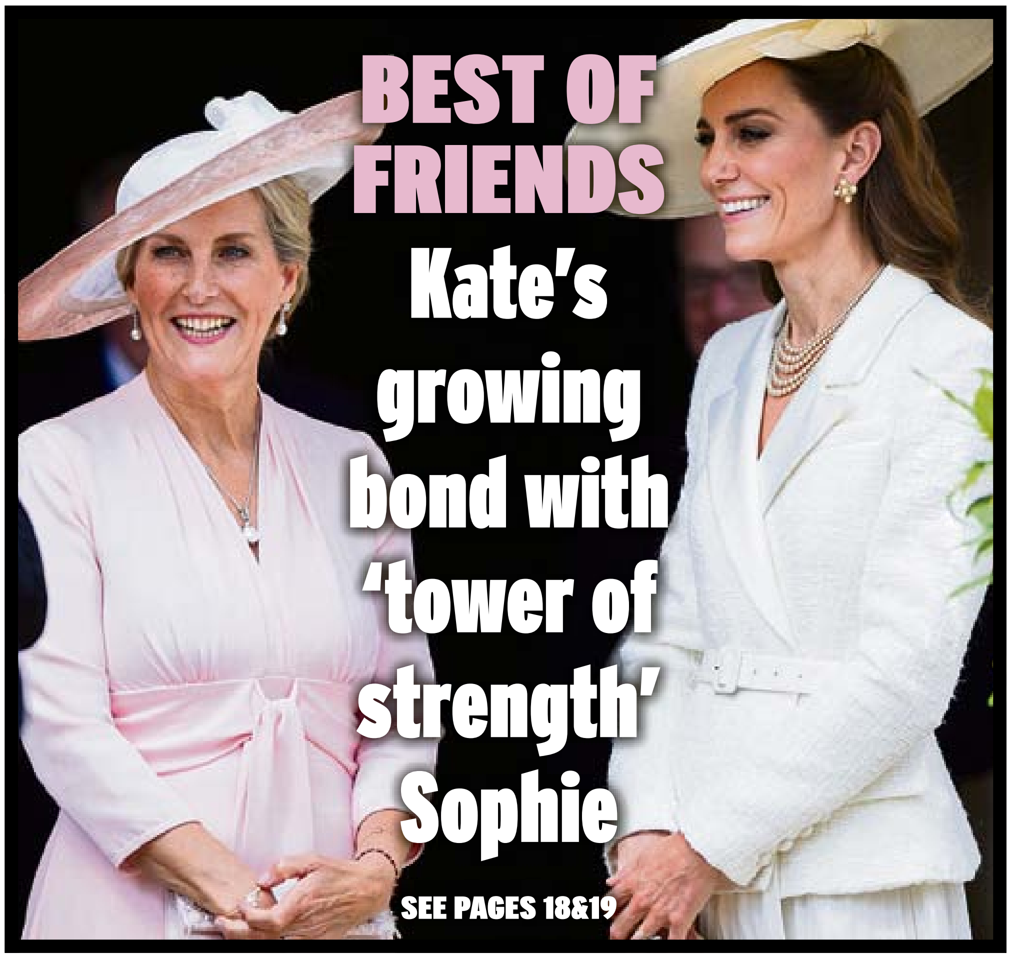
BY **CHRISTIAN CALGIE**
Senior Political Correspondent

ED Miliband’s net zero project could land the taxpayer with a huge bill of £9trillion, a report has claimed.

Officials have deliberately and consistently underestimated the cost of heat pumps, renewables and electric vehicles, according to the paper from the Institute of Economic Affairs.

Its author said: “The true cost of net zero is much higher than we have been led to

TURN TO PAGE 4



BEST OF FRIENDS

Kate’s growing bond with ‘tower of strength’ Sophie

SEE PAGES 18&19

Adolescence is the golden won

BY **MARK JEFFERIES**
and **LAURA HARDING**

THE ecstatic cast and creators of Adolescence brought the British party to the Golden Globes as they celebrated a sweep of prizes for the TV drama that has gripped global audiences.

Stephen Graham, his wife Hannah Walters and Erin Doherty had smiles plastered across their faces as they hit the dance floor after yet another awards ceremony triumph.

Co-star Owen Cooper captured their incredible night with selfies, including the Adolescence team pitching up at the event in Los Angeles by bus on Sunday.

He later got selfies with A-listers Leonardo DiCaprio, Sean Penn and Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson.

Graham, 52, was named best actor in a TV mini series while Cooper, 16, was named best supporting actor – the youngest ever.

Doherty, 33, won best supporting actress for her turn as a child psychologist.

The Netflix drama, about a teenage boy arrested for the murder of a classmate, also won the prize for limited series, anthology series or television motion picture.

The show won the same four prizes at the Critics' Choice awards last week and has won a string of Emmys.

Graham thanked his actor and producer wife Hannah, adding: "I've said it before, but you've saved my life. You saved my life.

"And to my two beautiful children, Grace and Alfie, I love you to the moon and back for ever.

'Standing here does not feel real whatsoever'

"My dad, my pops, my hero, and I would just like to dedicate this particular award to my mum and all my friends and family, you all know exactly who you are, and without you, none of this is possible."

He was distracted when he spotted rapper and actress Queen Latifah in the audience and said, "Queen Latifah, wow," and bowed, before continuing: "God bless, and in the words of Bob Marley, One Love."

Asked by reporters about a second season, he said of co-creator Jack Thorne: "I cannot answer that question because it's somewhere in the deep recesses of my mind and Jack's mind, and we'll pull it out in three or four years, so stay tuned."

Cooper gave a nod to his beloved football team, Liverpool, as he collected the gong for playing murder suspect Jamie Miller.

He said: "Standing here at the Golden Globes does not feel real whatsoever. What an incredible journey me and my family have been put through.

"What started off as what I thought I might be OK at, I might be awful at, I took a risk and I went to drama classes,

"I was the only boy there, it was embarrassing, but I got through it.

"But I'm still very much an apprentice, I'm still learning every day, I'm still every day learning from the people sat in front of me who have inspired me. I wouldn't be here without you guys."

Referencing Liverpool's terraces chant, he added: "Bring on 2026. You'll never walk alone."

Picking up another prize, Jack Thorne said: "Some think our show is about how we should be frightened of young people. It's not. It's about the filth and the debris we have laid in their path."

After thanking the young cast, he said: "You are proof the world can be better.

"Removing hate is our generation's responsibility. It requires thought from the top down. The possibility seems remote now, but hope is a beautiful thing."

The Los Angeles awards ceremony's red carpet saw Jennifer Lawrence winning glamour plaudits for a daring foliage-inspired Givenchy gown.

Irish star Jessie Buckley, 36, won best actress as William Shakespeare's wife Agnes Hathaway in the big-screen adaptation of the Maggie O'Farrell novel Hamnet.

Collecting her award, she said: "This is not a normal feeling or situation to be in". The film about the death of Shakespeare's son, which inspired him to write tragedy Hamlet, was also named best motion picture drama, while One Battle After Another was named best motion picture comedy/musical. Teyana Taylor, 35, was the first winner of the night, scoring the best supporting actress statue for her role as a revolutionary in the film.

Accepting her prize, she said: "To my brown sisters and little brown girls watching tonight, our softness is not a liability. Our depth is not too much. Our light does not need permission to shine. We belong in every room we walk into, our voices matter, and our dreams deserve space. Thank you so much, everybody."

Paul Thomas Anderson, 55, took home the best director prize for the film, as well as best screenplay.

Timothee Chalamet, 30, won the award for the best actor in a musical or comedy for the film Marty

BEVERLY HILTON

Stephen Graham and wife Hannah Walters with Adolescence co-star and best supporting actress winner Erin Doherty

Owen Cooper, 16, with his award. Right, he asks Leo DiCaprio for a selfie

Teyana Taylor

Jennifer Lawrence on the Golden Globes red carpet

Jessie Buckley above, wtih her award for Hamnet. Below, Timothee Chalamet and Jennifer Lopez

GOLDEN GLOBES

Supreme. He had faced competition from Hollywood heavyweights including Leonardo DiCaprio, 51, and George Clooney, 64. Stellan Skarsgard, 74, won best supporting actor as a film director past his prime in Sentimental Value, while Rose Byrne, 46, was named best actress in a musical/comedy for If I Had Legs I'd Kick You. She jokingly thanked her actor other half, saying: "I want to thank my husband Bobby Cannavale, who couldn't be here tonight because he's getting a bearded dragon and he went to a reptile expo in New Jersey.

"So thank you. Thank you, baby."

Cannavale is currently starring in a play on Broadway. Narcos star Wagner Moura, 49, won the award for best actor in a drama for his work in a political thriller. Collecting the prize, the Brazilian star said: "The Secret Agent is a film about memory, or the lack of memory and generational trauma.

"I think that if trauma can be passed along generations, values can too. So this is to the ones that are sticking with their values in difficult moments."

Noah Wyle, 54, was named best actor in a TV drama for The Pitt while Jean Smart, 74, won the best actress in a TV musical/comedy prize for Hacks and Seth Rogen, 43, won best actor for The Studio. The series, about a fictional Hollywood studio, was also named best musical or comedy series.

Medical drama The Pitt was named best television drama series, while Rhea Seehorn, 53, won best actress in a drama for her role in Apple TV's Pluribus.

Good Hang with Amy Poehler, 54, won the first ever Golden Globe for best podcast while 1930s vampire drama Sinners, starring Michael B Jordan, won best cinematic and box office achievement.

KPop Demon Hunters was named best animated film, while the movie's signature track Golden won best original song.

Rose Byrne

Seth Rogen

Host's dig at long-haired lothario Leo

BY **MARK JEFFERIES**

GOLDEN Globes host Nikki Glaser teased Leonardo DiCaprio about his hairstyle as well as dating younger women.

The comedian, 41, ribbed the long-haired One Battle After Another star, 51, by saying: "Leonardo DiCaprio is here for One Man Bun After Another... what a career you've had, countless iconic performances, you've worked with every great director, you've won three Golden Globes, an Oscar.

"And the most impressive thing is you were able to accomplish all of that before your girlfriend turned 30. I mean, it's just insane."

Glaser joked she had tried to dig deeper into the actor's life, but lamented: "The most in-depth interview you've ever given was in Teen Beat magazine in 1991. Is your favourite food still 'pasta, pasta and more pasta'?"

Leonardo DiCaprio was in the firing line for host's jokes

The comedian received a good-natured thumbs-up from the actor in response.

She also took a playful jab at Jay Kelly star George Clooney, 64, referencing his endorsement deal with coffee brand Nespresso by asking him for machine troubleshooting advice.

Glaser then took a swipe at slender Marty Supreme star Timothee Chalamet, 30, saying: "He is the first actor in history to have to put on muscle for a movie about ping pong. This is true. He gained over 60 ounces, it's insane."

CLAIMS TRUE COST OF

‘We’re flying blind highest electricity

Illegal working a huge lure for asylum seekers

BY **AARON NEWBURY**

LABOUR has turned Britain into a “soft touch” for illegal workers despite a record surge in immigration enforcement raids, the Tories have warned.

Shadow Home Secretary Chris Philp said illegal working is still “booming” and fuelling the Channel crossings.

Mr Philp said: “Working illegally is a criminal offence – if a foreign national commits that offence, they should be deported. As long as people who arrive illegally can work, earn and stay, smugglers have a sales pitch, a reward they dangle in front of those crossing the Channel.”

The damning assessment came despite figures showing immigration enforcement raids have hit a record high.

Home Office data confirms 17,400 raids were carried out on dodgy businesses between July-December 2025, leading to 12,300 arrests.

Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood said: “There is no place for illegal working in our communities. That is why we have surged enforcement activity to the highest level in British history – so illegal migrants in the black economy have nowhere to hide.”

Bar chief calls for rethink on ditching juries

BY **TRISTAN KIRK**

AXING half of all jury trials will “erode” public trust in the criminal justice system while failing to tackle the huge backlog of cases, the new chair of the Bar Council has said.

Kirsty Brimelow KC – a former lawyer colleague of PM Sir Keir Starmer – urged the government to focus instead on measures that would speed up proceedings, such as getting prisoners to court on time.

At her inaugural speech in Central London last night, Ms Brimelow told the council, which represents barristers in England and Wales: “The latest government proposals restricting jury trials will not reduce the backlog of cases, built up over years of financial slash and burn of the criminal justice system.”

However, they may “further erode trust which hangs by the thread of citizen participation in the criminal courts”.

The crown court backlog is around 80,000 cases. Justice Secretary David Lammy said on Sunday that he believes restricting the right to jury trial is necessary to “save the criminal justice system”.

But Labour MP Karl Turner has suggested he may quit and force a by-election on the issue.

FROM PAGE ONE

believe.” The findings were backed by Shadow Energy Secretary Claire Coutinho. She said: “Wildly optimistic assumptions and crippling groupthink in our institutions means we’re flying blind – and the result is the highest electricity prices in the world and our industry fleeing overseas.

“When I was Energy Secretary I had to pull teeth to make the Energy Department carry out an accurate costing of wind and solar – one which factors in all the extra costs of building the grid, paying wind farms to switch off when it’s too windy, and paying for gas backup for when it’s not windy enough. Ed Miliband has since cancelled that work, which tells you all you need to know about how little this government cares about the cost of net zero.”

Forecasts vary widely on the true cost of meeting the government target of net zero by 2050.

The official Climate Change Committee, set up in 2008 to advise the government on emissions, currently claims net zero will cost £108billion – far below its original estimate of over £1trillion.

By contrast, forecasts by the National Energy System Operator peg the cost at £7.6trillion. But the Institute of Economic Affairs think-tank says even this is a significant underestimation of the real costs.

Its report, The Cost of Net Zero, says that NESO’s outlier figure fails to include the carbon costs of emissions, which would take the total sum by 2050 to above £9trillion.

The CCC’s forecasts are also criticised for being overly optimistic on other crucial aspects of the UK’s green transition – such as offshore wind, solar power plants and solar energy – and basing estimations on “implausibly low borrowing costs”.

They include NESO assumptions that capital for solar and onshore wind projects will cost 5% and 5.2% respectively, below the current 5.3% 30-year gilt yield rate. Report author Mr Turver said: “The public bodies responsible for working out the costs of net zero have not been entirely truthful in their analysis. They have made fantasy assumptions about the cost of renewables and low-carbon technologies. The true cost of net zero is much higher than we have been led to believe.” Reform UK’s Richard Tice said: “This report shows the real cost of net zero will be many trillions of pounds and will not reduce the cost of energy.

“Instead it will devastate industry as high energy costs make businesses uncompetitive.

“Reform will scrap ‘net stupid zero’ to bring down bills and save what’s left of British industry.” Tory leader Kemi Badenoch made opposition to net zero by 2050 a key part of her leadership platform.

Calling time on the Conservatives’ support for the project, Ms Badenoch said the law passed by former Tory Prime Minister Theresa May will lead to a “serious drop in our living stand-

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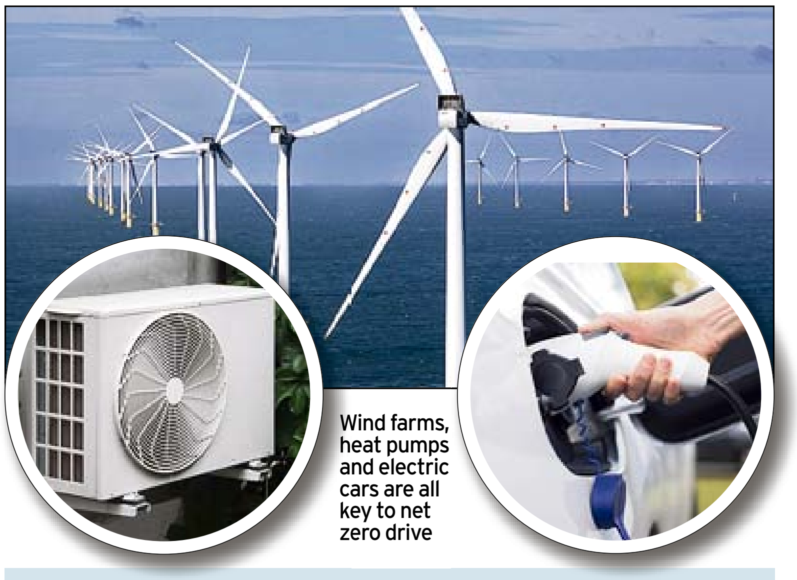
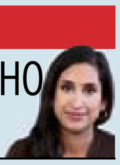


Wind farms, heat pumps and electric cars are all key to net zero drive

COMMENT

CLAIRE COUTINHO



Shadow Energy Security and Net Zero Secretary

THOSE who did not live through the 1970s may not have experienced what happens in a blackout. But last April, Spain and Portugal gave us a stark reminder of what happens when a country cannot keep power flowing.

Traffic lights went blank and train lines ground to a halt.

Card machines were unable to take payments and shops were barricaded shut to keep away looters. Tragically, at least seven people died.

The conclusion of a new report by energy expert Kathryn Porter is that unless Ed Miliband gets his act together, by the end of the decade Britain will be at a greater risk of similar blackouts than at any time since the 1970s.

Obsession

Keeping the lights on and our society functioning depends on having reliable power stations that we control. But Ed Miliband’s obsession with net zero means that he is building as many wind and solar farms as he can – with no regard for what it means for people’s energy bills or our ability to keep the lights on.

Common sense tells us that the problem with having our energy system depend on the weather is that in Britain – surprise surprise – the wind doesn’t always blow and the sun doesn’t always shine.

We can’t choose to turn wind and solar farms up like we can with gas. We’re at the mercy of the weather.

The killer? Many of the reliable gas plants that we rely on are coming to the end of their working lives, and Kathryn’s data shows that up to a third of our reliable capacity is due to shut down by 2030, at the same time that we’re adding a lot of demand because of things like electric cars and AI.

That puts us at serious risk of blackouts on a cold day with no wind.

The absolute priorities for any energy secretary should be to keep the lights on and to cut people’s bills. Ed Miliband is failing at both.

Despite promising to cut bills by £300, they have risen five times on his watch and are now £200 higher than when he came to power.

It’s time to get real. In these difficult geopolitical times we cannot let net zero ideology override our energy security.

We need to build more reliable gas and nuclear power plants, adopt the Conservatives’ Cheap Power Plan to cut everyone’s electricity bills by 20% instantly, and repeal the Climate Change Act so we can base energy policy on common sense, not ideology.

Second of twin reactors fills the horizon

THE second nuclear reactor of Hinkley Point C’s £46billion twin power station has arrived at the Somerset site after travelling by land and sea.

The 42-ft long, 500-ton steel cylinder was shipped from Normandy to Avonmouth Docks in Bristol, then transported by barge to Combwich Wharf, Somerset. It completed the final four-mile leg to Bridgwater in a

NET ZERO IS £9TRILLION

and the result is the prices in the world'

Fission of excitement as nuclear reactor lands...

Hi-vis unit 2 perches on wheels

Abnormal load crawls towards Hinkley Point

BY **DEAN MURRAY**

six-hour road trip on Sunday. Each of the reactors will power around three million homes with carbon-free energy when it is finally completed by 2031 – six years late.

EDF Energy, the main owner of the development, blamed the pandemic, war in Ukraine and global supply issues for the delay, which has also seen the bill rocket from the £18bn estimated in 2017. The first reactor – unit 1 – arrived at Hinkley Point C in 2023 and it is now being fitted out with pipes, cables and equipment.

Unit 2 will first get its housing, as construction on the site steps up with around 15,000 expected to work on the build.

It already has its giant dome, dubbed "Big Carl", which was lifted into place by the world's biggest crane. The reactors will split an atom – nuclear fission – to heat water and create high-pressure steam. This will turn the world's largest turbines.

Teamwork

The new generation technology uses 17% less uranium.

EDF's Claire Warner-Blackman said: "Months of planning and exceptional teamwork has resulted in the successful delivery of this critical component to Hinkley Point C. The Reactor Pressure Vessel sits at the heart of the nuclear power station and so it is vital to ensure that delivery goes without a hitch.

"I'm very proud to have been part of this complex operation and my thanks go to all of the brilliant teams involved."

The UK gets about 15% of its electricity from its remaining nine reactors after 36 were retired, including Hinkley Point B.

EDF – owned by the French government – runs eight power stations, only five of which are still operational.

Hinkley Point C was commissioned in line with the government's emission reduction targets, as part of a wider energy transition strategy.

ards" or bankrupt the Treasury. She has since pledged to repeal the "failed" 2008 Climate Change Act, which first set legally binding targets to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

However, Jess Ralston of the Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit insisted that failing to act would be equally expensive. She said: "History tells us that oil and gas prices are volatile and at the mercy of actors like Putin. The recent gas crisis drove the UK to spend over £180billion.

"The Treasury and homeowners alike would struggle to afford a repeat in the event of future price spikes. Accelerating the roll-out of British renewables and net zero technologies means greater energy security. With every wind turbine and heat pump installed the UK is less reliant on foreign energy imports. Renewables we already have on the system lowered wholesale power prices by around a quarter in 2024, a trend which will continue."

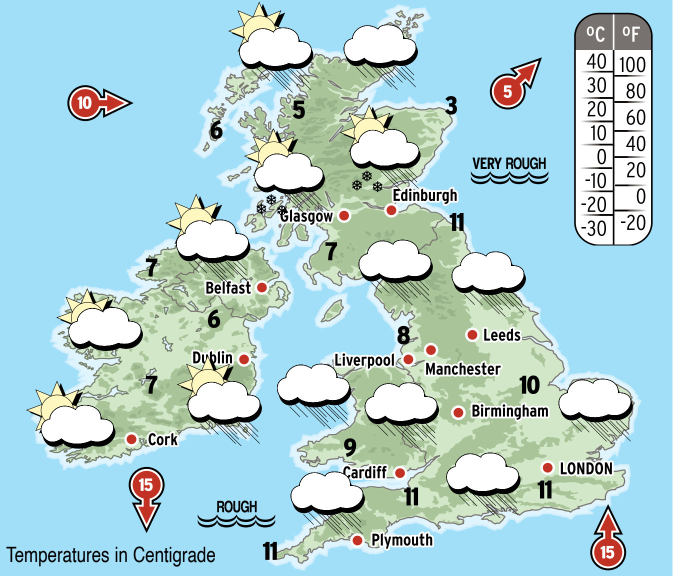
The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero said it rejected the IEA's analysis "which assumes there are no costs associated with staying on the fossil fuel rollercoaster".

It added: "Driving for clean energy saves money by fundamentally reducing our exposure to fossil fuel markets – NESO's report shows we could save £36billion annually if we hit our 2050 goals compared with a scenario in which we slow down.

"The only way to bring down energy bills and deliver energy security is by making Britain a clean energy superpower, which will get us on to clean, homegrown power that we control."

OPINION: PAGE 12

WEATHER FORECAST



Temperatures in Centigrade

Today's summary: Overcast, rainy; cool and damp

North West: Wet with outbreaks of light rain and drizzle expected. Moderate north-westerly winds. High 9C (48F).

Northern Ireland: Wet start, turning sunny. Light winds, cooler by evening with clear skies. High 7C (45F).

Wales: Wet conditions early, clearing to drizzly skies. Light winds, becoming cooler throughout. High 10C (50F).

Midlands: Cloudy with drizzle at times. Occasional clearer spells later. Light winds, cool overall. High 9C (48F).

North East/Yorks: Wet with drizzle or rain at times, mainly light in nature. Light winds. High 9C (48F).

Scotland: Cloudy with periods of wet weather early. Clear and fair later. Breezy and cool. High 6C (43F).

East Anglia: Grey and wet with patchy light rain and drizzle expected. Gentle southerly winds. High 10C (50F).

London/South East: Overcast and wet with patchy light rain or drizzle. Moderate south-westerly winds. High 11C (52F).

South: Dull and wet with drizzle and rain, heavy during the morning. Moderate northerly winds. High 11C (52F).

South West: Dull and wet with rain or drizzle, mainly light and patchy. Gentle north-westerly winds. High 11C (52F).

Channel Isles: Wet with rain and drizzle, mostly light and patchy though. Fresh westerly winds. High 10C (50F).

Sea: North Sea: Moderate. Irish Sea: Moderate. Channel: Moderate.

UK OUTLOOK TOMORROW: Expect showers and brisk winds, easing later with clearer spells by night. Temperatures cool, especially in northern regions.

SIX-DAY FORECAST

Temperatures in Centigrade

	WED			THU			FRI			SAT			SUN			MON		
		min	max		min	max		min	max		min	max		min	max		min	max
London	⛅	4	7	🌧	4	9	🌦	5	10	🌦	4	9	🌦	5	8	🌧	5	9
Belfast	🌧	3	6	🌦	1	6	🌦	1	6	🌦	3	6	🌧	4	7	🌦	2	6
Birmingham	⛅	4	6	🌧	2	8	🌦	3	8	🌦	2	7	🌧	5	7	🌧	4	8
Cardiff	🌦	5	7	🌧	4	9	🌦	3	9	🌦	3	8	🌧	6	8	🌧	4	9
Glasgow	🌧	4	7	🌦	2	7	🌦	2	7	🌦	2	6	🌧	4	7	🌦	3	7
Manchester	🌦	5	6	🌧	3	8	🌦	4	8	🌦	3	7	🌧	5	7	🌧	4	8
Newcastle	⛅	4	6	🌧	2	7	⛅	3	6	🌦	3	6	🌧	4	6	🌧	4	7
Norwich	⛅	2	6	🌧	4	8	🌦	4	8	🌦	4	8	🌦	5	7	🌧	4	8
Plymouth	🌧	8	9	🌧	6	10	🌦	5	10	🌦	5	9	🌧	7	9	🌧	6	9

Britain yesterday

24 hours to 5pm	SUN (hrs)	RAIN (ins)	TEMP (min)	(max)
Aberdeen	1.4	0.12	6	9
Aberporth	0.1	0.12	9	11
Alnwick	1.9	0.02	7	10
Belfast	0.4	0.08	7	9
Birmingham	0.0	0.12	8	11
B'mouth	0.0	0.22	10	12
Bristol	0.4	0.23	10	12
Cardiff	0.3	0.17	9	11
Durham	1.5	0.05	6	9
Edinburgh	3.4	0.04	8	10
Glasgow	0.2	0.40	8	9
Hull	0.1	0.04	7	10
Ipswich	0.0	0.04	5	10
Leeds	1.1	0.05	7	10
Lincoln	1.0	0.02	7	11
London	0.3	0.14	9	12
Manchester	0.0	0.14	8	10
Oxford	0.3	0.12	9	12
S'hampton	0.2	0.23	10	11
St Andrews	2.5	0.08	7	10

Moon, sun and tides

MOON rises: 3.41am, sets: 11.36am
SUN rises London: 8.01am, sets: 4.18pm
Manchester rises: 8.18am, sets: 4.17pm

●
New Moon
18 January

HIGH TIDE

London B'ge	(9.01am), (9.31pm)
Liverpool	(6.38am), (7.12pm)
Greenock	(7.46am), (7.41pm)
Dover	(6.28am), (7.15pm)

Britain Extremes: (24 hours to 11pm Sunday)
Warmest: Bude, 14c (56f).
Coldest: South Newington, -5c (22f).
Wettest: Gt Cumbrae Millport, 2.25ins.
Sunniest: Manston, 0.6hrs.

Lighting-up times

Belfast	4.26pm-8.38am
Birmingham	4.20pm-8.11am
Bristol	4.27pm-8.09am
Glasgow	4.12pm-8.38am
London	4.18pm-8.00am
Manchester	4.17pm-8.17am
Newcastle	4.06pm-8.22am

Europe forecast

Today

Amsterdam	Rain	9C/48F
Brussels	Rain	10C/50F
Dublin	Rain	8C/46F
Frankfurt	Cloudy	7C/45F
Geneva	Sunny	9C/48F
Lisbon	Thunder	15C/59F
Madrid	Rain	12C/54F
Paris	Fair	12C/54F
Rome	Cloudy	15C/59F

Tomorrow

Amsterdam	Rain	7C/45F
Brussels	Rain	8C/46F
Dublin	Rain	8C/46F
Frankfurt	Rain	8C/46F
Geneva	Rain	7C/45F
Lisbon	Fair	15C/59F
Madrid	Showers	12C/54F
Paris	Rain	10C/50F
Rome	Cloudy	16C/61F

Around the world yesterday

		C	F
Amsterdam	Mist	4	39
Athens	Fair	7	45
Barcelona	Sunny	11	52
Berlin	Cloudy	-6	21
Budapest	Sunny	-2	28
Cairo	Sunny	18	64
Cape Town	Shwrs	25	77
Casablanca	Sunny	18	64
Corfu	Sunny	7	45
Dublin	Cloudy	10	50
Dubrovnik	Sunny	5	41
Faro	Fair	12	54
Florence	Cloudy	2	36
Gibraltar	Sunny	15	59
Guernsey	Cloudy	10	50
Hong Kong	Fair	18	64
Istanbul	Rain	3	37
Jersey	Rain	10	50
Larnaca	Shwrs	17	63
Las Palmas	Sunny	20	68
Los Angeles	Sunny	22	72
Luxor	Sunny	22	72
Malaga	Sunny	13	55
Mallorca	Fair	16	61
Malta	Sunny	13	55
Melbourne	Sunny	21	70
Miami	Fair	27	81
Moscow	Snow	-3	27
Nairobi	Cloudy	23	73
New Delhi	Sunny	16	61
New York	Fair	7	45
Nice	Sunny	11	52
Nicosia	Thndr	16	61
Perth	Sunny	34	93
Prague	Snow	-6	21
Singapore	Fair	29	84
Stockholm	Snow	-5	23
Sydney	Rain	20	68
Tel Aviv	Sunny	19	66
Tenerife	Sunny	21	70
Toronto	Snow	-1	30
Tunis	Sunny	15	59
Venice	Fair	3	37
Vienna	Cloudy	-3	27
Warsaw	Cloudy	-7	19

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Ex-Tory chancellor defects to Reform

BY **CHRISTIAN CALGIE**
Senior Political Correspondent

NIGEL Farage unveiled his latest big-name defector to Reform UK yesterday, former Chancellor of the Exchequer Nadhim Zahawi.

Ex-Tory Mr Zahawi, 58, who stepped down from parliament at the last election, called Nigel Farage the only leader willing to speak difficult truths to rescue "sick" Britain.

The announcement shocked Westminster, and prompted a brutal dismissal from the Conservatives, who branded him a "has-been".

Speaking yesterday, Mr Farage said he had been supportive of Mr Zahawi's brief tilt at the Tory leadership following Boris Johnson's downfall, claiming the country would have begun heading in the right direction.

Magical

Mr Zahawi said Britain is now "drinking at the last chance saloon", adding: "Our beautiful, ancient, kind, magical island story has reached a dark and dangerous chapter.

"I've seen politicians come and go. They're driven by just getting to power – that is not Nigel. I've made my mind up that the team that will deliver for this nation will be the team Nigel will put together, and that's why I've decided that I'm joining Reform UK."

He criticised his former party's – and his own – record from 14 years in government as one of "timidity and weakness", piling blame on the Civil Service and quangos.

Nadhim Zahawi is welcomed by Nigel Farage in London yesterday

The former Stratford-upon-Avon MP had led the fastest Covid jab rollout in the world as vaccines minister in Boris Johnson's government.

His success at the Department for Health propelled him up the ranks with top jobs including Cabinet Office minister, Education Secretary and eventually Chancellor.

Mr Zahawi, whose family fled Baghdad during Saddam Hussein's rise to power, also excelled in business, founding the polling firm YouGov.

In a furious response, the Tories accused him of joining the "next gravy train", and claimed he was begging for a peerage weeks before jumping ship. A source claimed: "Nadhim has made multiple approaches on at least two occasions – not just asking but begging for a peerage. When it didn't happen, he came begging again. While he wasn't rudely rebuffed by us, we were very clear he wasn't going to get one."

The party claimed this was due to the circumstances of his departure from government, surrounding a tax row from his time at YouGov.

Labour chairman Anna Turley said Mr Zahawi's defection is proof that Reform "has no shame".

CORRECTIONS AND COMPLAINTS

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It's lift off for Amazon as drone flights begin in UK

BY **TOM WILKINSON**

AMAZON has started to test drone flights ahead of launching its UK airborne delivery service later this year.

The US tech giant has begun "a limited number of flights" from its base in Darlington but has not yet launched a delivery service for customers.

Amazon announced a year ago that the town would be its test centre.

The firm said in a new statement: "We can confirm we have commenced a limited number of Prime Air drone flights out of our Darlington fulfilment centre in Symmetry Park.

"Deliveries are not yet being made but the service is expected to officially launch in 2026.

"This marks an exciting next step in bringing drone delivery to the UK, and we continue to work closely with Darlington Council and the Civil Aviation Authority."

When Amazon launches the service, eligible customers in Darlington will be able to receive their items within two hours, as long as the package weighs less than 5lbs.

Prime Air drone takes off

The firm will use its MK30 drone, fitted with sophisticated tech to avoid obstacles and ensure "the safety of people, pets and property".

David Carbon, VP of Prime Air, said: "Our MK30 drones are designed to operate quietly and efficiently.

"We look forward to demonstrating how this innovative technology can serve the people of Darlington while maintaining the highest safety standards."

Amazon said that as the drone descends for delivery, its onboard systems identify and steer clear of obstacles such as clothes lines or trampolines – items that might not appear in satellite maps.

"These same cameras continuously monitor the surrounding airspace during flight."

Crackdown on shocking AI 'weapons of abuse' images

BY **STEPH SPYRO**

Tech Secretary Liz Kendall. Right, Elon Musk

CREATING non-consensual intimate images will become a criminal offence from this week, Technology Secretary Liz Kendall has confirmed.

The government will also criminalise apps which allow users to create fake nude images of people.

Ms Kendall labelled AI-generated images of women "tied up and gagged, with bruises, covered in blood and much, much more" as being "weapons of abuse".

Speaking in the Commons yesterday, Ms Kendall said the Internet Watch Foundation also "reports criminal imagery of children as young as 11, including girls sexualised and toddlers". Referring to the fakes, she added: "Lives can and have been devastated by this content, which is designed to harass, torment and violate people's dignity."

Media watchdog Ofcom has launched a probe into whether Elon Musk's social media platform X has breached UK law after reports its AI chatbot Grok was used to create and share sexualised images of children.

Grok launched a new image generation feature in July last year and its use for creating nude fake images has become widespread over the past few weeks.

Downing Street has indicated that it is willing to consider banning X if the tycoon's company did not act, and PM Sir Keir Starmer yesterday said that if X cannot control Grok, "we will". He added: "The actions of Grok and X are absolutely disgusting and shameful."

Mr Musk accused the government of trying to curb free speech – a fear echoed by Reform UK leader Nigel Farage.

Tory leader Kemi Badenoch said banning X is "the wrong answer".

US pressure on PM to ban Iran's killer squad

BY **MARTYN BROWN**
Political Editor

SIR Keir Starmer is resisting US demands to designate Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a terrorist group amid a lethal crackdown on protesters.

The US State Department said the designation would be "merely stating the obvious".

But Downing Street played down the prospect, suggesting such a move would be ineffective.

More than 500 people have been killed and thousands detained in the uprising against the rule of Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, prompting renewed calls for ministers to proscribe the IRGC.

But No10 pointed to comments by Sir Richard Moore, the former head of MI6, who said the move "won't have practical effect".

Powers

The senior diplomat also told BBC Radio 4 that "the danger is that something like that is mostly about us feeling better about ourselves".

The Prime Minister's official spokesman said: "Proscription powers are designed for non-state terror organisations, not state organisations. I think it's helpful to point back to [Sir Richard Moore's] words too."

But Reform UK leader Nigel Farage heaped pressure on Sir Keir, saying: "We should have proscribed the IRGC years ago, just as we should have proscribed the Muslim Brotherhood years ago."

Tory leader Kemi Badenoch said she was not against proscribing the IRGC, but there were existing powers that could be used. She added: "We already have powers within the National Security Act in order to ban organisations like the IRGC.

"They are the army of an enemy country. We don't need to have a ban. There are loads of laws and legislation in place. Let's use them."

Bodies are laid out in body bags outside a morgue in Iran; among the dead is Rubina, inset

Proscription is the banning of a group based on an assessment that it commits or participates in, prepares for, promotes or encourages, or is otherwise concerned in terrorism.

Membership of, or support for, a proscribed group is a criminal offence punishable by up to 14 years in prison under the Terrorism Act 2000.

Protests began two weeks ago over Iran's ailing economy and have transformed into the most significant challenge to the regime in years.

At least 538 people have been killed in the brutal suppression of the protests and more than 10,600 detained, according the US-based Human Rights Activists news agency.

Dozens of bodies in bags have been laid out for identification outside a morgue in Kahrizak. Victims include Rubina Aminian, 23, a student of textile and fashion design in Tehran, who was shot in the back of the head after joining protests, said the Norway-based Iran Human Rights group.

ANALYSIS

MARTYN BROWN

Political Editor

FOR years, governments have talked tough on the IRGC – the brutal paramilitary wing of the Iranian regime.

In Opposition, Sir Keir Starmer pledged to proscribe it as a terrorist organisation. But neither he, nor his Tory and Labour predecessors have taken decisive action.

Since 2022, the IRGC has been associated with at least 20 credible Iranian threats to kill or kidnap people in the UK. Iran is now in the grip of its biggest uprising since 1979 but the crackdown, led by the IRCG, has led to more than 500 deaths and 10,000 arrested.

Pressure

Yet Downing Street maintains proscription powers are designed for non-state terror organisations.

Sir Richard Moore, the former head of MI6, has said proscribing "won't have practical effect".

Weighed against this is the mounting pressure, not least from Donald Trump, for Sir Keir to act.

Both Reform UK and the Liberal Democrats backed the calls, with Nigel Farage saying that Sir Keir should "stand up to the ayatollah".

Tory leader Kemi Badenoch is not against proscribing the IRGC but said existing powers could be used.

Former Tory security minister Tom Tugendhat said his party should have gone ahead with proscription when in government.

We're in a 'much worse' position than before WW2

EXCLUSIVE

BY **JAMES KNUCKEY**

LESS than a month ago the UK's defence chief stood at the lectern for his final speech of the year and delivered a bombshell warning – Britain's "sons and daughters" must be ready to fight. Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Knighton described the world as "more dangerous than I have known during my career".

But even he would have raised an eyebrow or two at quite how rapidly the security picture has shifted in the weeks that have followed. Both in the East and the West, it seems apparent the international norms and rules underpinning the world as we know it are rapidly changing.

America's capture of Venezuela president Nicolas Maduro, Nato's crisis over Donald Trump's renewed threats to Greenland and the US-led seizure of a Russian-flagged tanker near the Scottish coast last week are just some recent flashpoints.

And make no mistake about it, Britain's defences are not in a strong position.

The alarming warning from the Chief of the Defence Staff was not exactly new or a direct call for conscription. But many argue the UK risks leaving itself with little alternative as Labour fails to cough up the cash amid the prospect of a £28billion black hole in the defence budget.

Military historian Robert Lyman, a retired Army major, believes we are in a "much worse" position than before the outbreak of the Second World War.

"Our armed forces have never been so denuded of power since the Napoleonic wars," he said. "It's really hard to describe how poorly prepared we are – we have an Army that is probably smaller than it was during the Napoleonic wars.

"We all talk about the need for technology and how cyber and drones will win the next war. All of that is palpable nonsense. The way that wars are won are by mass of intelligence, infantry, armour and artillery, well-coordinated using technology to assist them.

'Conscription turns the focus from training for modern operations to a sausage machine'

"You can't win wars using small armies."

He added: "I'm afraid at the moment Britain is uniquely ill-defended and worse than that, the government is doing nothing about it."

The UK has had two periods of conscription – between 1916 and 1920, and 1939 and 1960.

Mr Lyman said it was "effective", but bringing it back is only likely if there is a "clear, present and existential danger" to the UK.

Britain has around 141,300 full-time troops, a number dwarfed by Russia, which has more than 1.1 million.

The UK is estimated to be spending 2.4% of its national income on defence, while Vladimir Putin is pouring more than 7% into the Kremlin's war machine.

Several European nations, including most recently Germany and France, have moved to bring back conscription, and many defence commentators have urged the UK to consider following suit.

Others argue that while this must be in the minds of ministers, it should only be enacted when all other avenues have been exhausted.

Former Army intelligence officer Philip Ingram said he believes the armed forces are in "one of the most shocking conditions" he has seen over the past 40 years.

But he still exercises caution over the idea of a return to national service. Conscription is the worst thing possible for a professional military because it turns the focus from training for modern operations to becoming a sausage machine for people going through a conscription process," he said.

"The first thing the government should be doing is everything it possibly can to bolster our regular forces. It should be a last resort, but one that we plan for now."

This was echoed by former Army officer and Liberal Democrat MP Mike Martin.

The defence select committee member said building up the active military, including an Army of above 100,000, must be the first priority. But he warned: "If we get in

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Protests in London over Trump plans

Trump has ambitions to take over Greenland

IT'S POSSIBLE TO BUILD

WHEN National Service finished, we continued to recruit sufficiently by offering a challenging lifestyle, and reasonable pay and conditions.

Today we're in a new and difficult situation. The international environment is pretty hostile, and we face a realistic threat from Russia – the time will come when Putin presses to test the resolve of Nato elsewhere.

We need to increase our military capabilities and personnel, not so we can necessarily win a future war, but so we are sufficiently strong to create an effective deterrent to future Russian

UK does not have enough soldiers or the money for defences, say some experts

DEFENCE CHIEF'S FEARS

BY **AARON NEWBURY**

BRITAIN'S top military chief has warned the country could not defend itself in war.

Sir Richard Knighton, the chief of defence staff, delivered the devastating admission to MPs yesterday, warning the armed forces are unprepared for the kind of conflict Britain may soon face.

Speaking at a defence committee meeting, Sir Richard said: "Over the last 30 years, since the end of the Cold War, we are not as ready, we have taken a peace dividend. We are not as ready as we need to be for the kind of full-scale conflict we might face." He added: "That is how we ultimately deter our principal adversaries, by being able to fight, and win."

It comes just six days after Sir Keir Starmer pledged to put British troops on the ground in Ukraine should a peace deal with Russia be agreed.

But Sir Richard's blunt assessment raises serious questions about whether the military has the resources to meet existing commitments while also fulfilling the ambitious targets set out in the government's strategic defence review.

Trade-offs

Pressed on whether the SDR could be delivered under existing budgets, Sir Richard admitted: "It's a statement to the obvious that we can't do everything we would want to do as quickly as we would want to do it, within the context of the budget we have set. And that requires ministers to make difficult trade-offs."

The SDR, published in June 2025, promised to make Britain "secure at home, strong abroad". In a "landmark shift" , it called for "warfighting readiness", tech innovation, strength in numbers and a move toward greater use of AI.

It recommended the regular army should not drop below 73,000 personnel, with a minimum of 100,000 regular and reserve personnel combined.

The government is to increase defence spending to 2.6% of GDP by 2027. However, its promised Defence Investment Plan, due in autumn 2025, has yet to materialise – which leaves the armed forces without a roadmap for funding.

The Ministry of Defence said: "The Strategic Defence Review is a deliverable and affordable plan for Defence to meet the challenges, threats and opportunities of the 21st century and the UK defence budget is rising to record levels."

A REAL DETERRENT... BY BOOSTING ITS APPEAL TO RECRUITS AND IMPROVING KIT

BY **LORD DANNATT**
Former head of the Army

aggression. The big question is how we go about that. Recruiting has always been a challenge. It's exacerbated when unemployment is quite low, as it is now in the UK, and when our armed forces are not committed to an ongoing operation.

The offer must also be more attractive when it comes to pay and conditions, which includes improving living accommodation.

I'm against conscription and national service, as I don't believe they're needed at the moment. I support the government's gap-year scheme where people between 18 and 25 can serve for a year – we've had gap-year commissions for officers for many years. This won't necessarily solve the recruitment problem but it provides some young people with military experience who would be the first to be called up in the event of a return to conscription.

It's also worth looking at some of the schemes European countries are considering, for example doing preliminary medicals on 18-24-year-olds to see, if push comes to shove, who is suitable to be called up. That would enable a more rapid call-up if necessary.

The infrastructure we had to handle large numbers of people coming in for short periods of time is gone.

But if we can improve our present system of recruiting and retention – along with increasing our defence spending to improve equipment and capability – we can build the necessary deterrent effect to keep us safe in the future.

Lord Dannatt is hopeful

a shooting war with Russia, we're going to have conscription. There's no doubt about that."

The number of regular troops has plummeted by 74% since the end of national service. The Army currently has 78,500 full-time soldiers, including Gurkhas.

In a damning assessment of Britain's military might, Mr Martin added: "We're in a very dangerous situation where if you don't have military power, you don't have a voice and your interests are not protected.

"We need to rapidly rebuild the UK's military capability."

Ex-Conservative defence minister Tobias Ellwood, a former soldier and defence select committee chair, added: "After what's happened so far this year, it's difficult to think what might wake us up to how dangerous our world's becoming other than a direct attack. We are still not having a serious conversation about preparations required for a very destabilising decade.

"Nato could easily fracture and America would pull out of the UN. National service must now be a serious option to improve our resilience." President Trump's latest threats to annex Greenland, a semi-autonomous territory of Nato ally Denmark, have exacerbated fears that the UK and Europe may forgo US support in the future.

It also appears many Gen Z-ers are reluctant to go to war for their country.

Some four in ten (41%) of 18 to 27-year-olds said in a recent poll they would not fight for Britain under any circumstances.

Just 11% said they would fight if they were called up, and 37% said they would if they agreed with the reason for war.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard has said he cannot see conscription in the short term, but questions will almost certainly continue unless significant investment is made into defence.

The Ministry of Defence said: "The UK defence budget is rising to record levels as this government delivers the biggest boost to defence spending since the Cold War, totalling £270bn this parliament alone.

"This government has no plans to introduce conscription in the UK and believe the best way of defending our country is by maintaining professional armed forces who choose to serve."

OPINION: PAGE 12

Dad who threw baby at TV jailed for 35 years

Brain-damaged child will need care for life

BY **ELEANOR STOREY**

Rhydian Jamieson was called a coward by the judge

A FATHER who tried to murder his baby during “a fit of uncontrolled rage” has been jailed for 35 years.

Rhydian Jamieson, 28, flung the infant at a TV set then fled from the property, a court heard.

He has shown “no remorse”, despite his child being left with extremely life-changing injuries.

He also refused to attend yesterday’s sentencing hearing – telling Swansea crown court he had been wrongfully charged and had “suffered enough pain mentally”.

Addressing him in his absence, Judge Paul Thomas KC called him a “coward”, saying: “It was a fit of uncontrolled temper, probably because the baby was simply crying, in the way that babies do.

“It was clear that the baby needed immediate and urgent medical attention... You did not even bother to check whether the baby was alive.

“Like the coward that you are, you just left [the baby] there, concealed under a duvet. That, in my view, was an act of the most horrendous callousness.” The infant, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was found lying face down, bloodied, bruised and with a fractured skull, by family members.

Dyfed-Powys Police said they were called to the property in a village in Ceredigion just before 10.15pm on January 15 last year.

Disgusting

After fleeing, Jamieson phoned friends and told them: “I think I’ve killed someone.” He described having “lost it” and said he had “flung [the baby] at the telly”.

He also said: “I’m going to be on the news as a baby killer.”

His child has irreversible brain damage as a result of the injuries.

Caroline Rees KC, prosecuting, said: “The effect upon [the baby] has been extremely life-changing.

“[They] will require life-long care and support in daily life.” In a statement to the court, the child’s mother told Jamieson: “You are nothing but a spiteful, disgusting person. What has happened has completely changed my life and [my child’s] life forever.

“I live every day not knowing if [my child] will be able to walk, talk or live an independent life.

“I feel robbed of the chance just to be a normal young mum. The impact on me and my child will last for the rest of our lives. Nothing will undo the damage you have caused.”

Jamieson, from Cwm Cou, Newcastle Emlyn, pleaded guilty to attempted murder at a hearing last April. Judge Thomas told him yesterday: “You’ve not had the courage to come to court today to hear sentence passed upon you.

“I find that you do not show a scintilla of true remorse for the terrible, life-changing injuries that you caused.” As well as the jail term, he banned Jamieson from unsupervised access to children for the rest of his life.

Asylum seeker Mehmet Ogur

Kurdish park rapist now behind bars

BY **PAUL JEEVES**

A KURDISH asylum seeker who raped a woman after luring her to a park has been jailed for seven years.

Mehmet Ogur, 27, had chatted online with his 18-year-old victim before they met in Tamworth, Staffs.

Afterwards, Ogur, who was living at the local Holiday Inn Express, messaged an apology.

At Stafford crown court he was convicted of rape and attempted rape. His victim said: “He destroyed me.”

Vet’s assistant Ogur arrived in Britain by small boat weeks before last January’s attack.

Judge John Edwards said: “Your continued stay in the UK will be for others to determine.”

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TRAITORS SPOILER ALERT

Fans fear spin-off gives clue to who's out next

One fan fears Jessie could be next to be murdered

BY **NICOLA METHVEN**

FANS of The Traitors have claimed bosses are spoiling the show by revealing who the guests are for its spin-off series, which airs afterwards.

They believe anyone looking into who has been booked as a guest on The Traitors: Uncloaked can work out who's been banished.

The spin-off show, hosted by Ed Gamble, airs straight after the main episode on BBC One and always features the contestants who have been banished and murdered plus invited guests, who are often celebrities and former contestants. At the end of each Uncloaked episode, host Ed announces the guests that viewers will see next time.

Some fans have spotted a pattern with the guests who they feel give a clear nod towards who will next leave the show. For example, celebrity player Charlotte Church and Traitor Amanda Lovett, who appeared in the first series, were announced on Thursday last week as being the guests for Friday's episode. Because they are both Welsh, it was argued this indicated that it would be Fiona Hughes who would be making her exit in the pre-recorded show.

One fan of the show wrote online: "Regarding Uncloaked, their guests keep spoiling the show, and I'm tweeting this so they hopefully see it and stop it!

"They have themed guests, and the pattern is too obvious. Mark was on last night after Amanda got banished by chance, because he was banished by chance too. The other guest was Fozia, murdered face-to-face… just like Maz." Some fans have now predicted that hairstylist Jessie Stride will be murdered next week – because former player Maddy Smedley, from series one, has been booked as a guest tomorrow.

"I fear if this continues to be true, then Jessie is definitely murdered on Wednesday, cos Madelyn Smedley is on the panel, and they are our S1 and S4 traitor hunter girl bosses," one fan predicted.

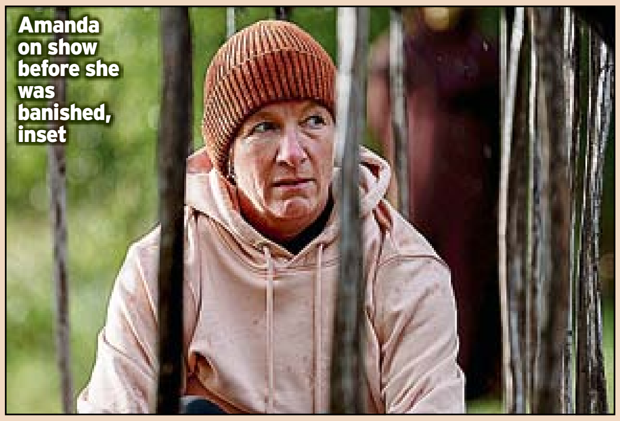
Jessie's demise has already been discussed on the programme, after Matt Hyndman asked the Traitors who would be killed next and they replied that it would be Jessie "because she's too Faithful".

He then came up with a potential deal, saying: "I want you to murder Jessie. And the next time you seduce [a new Traitor], you can seduce me. Do we have a deal?"

● *The next episode of Traitors is on BBC One tomorrow.*

Charlotte and Amanda join Ed, Fiona and contestant Reece Ward on Uncloaked on Friday

Ed Gamble hosts Uncloaked



Amanda on show before she was banished, inset

Ex-cop's heart jeopardy found by show's medics

BY **NICOLA METHVEN**

THE former senior detective who was banished from The Traitors has told how being selected for the show potentially saved her life.

Amanda Collier, a former detective chief inspector with the Metropolitan Police, was given the routine medical check provided for contestants before taking part – and told she had a worrying heart condition.

The retired cop, from Brighton, said she was diagnosed with "quite serious heart disease".

The 57-year-old said the problem runs in her family and she was "very, very grateful" to the programme makers, saying that without the "due diligence" of the production team she would never have known the danger she was in.

The news has enabled her to get medication and change her fitness routine to stay healthy.

"If I hadn't had the scan I would still be running around doing what I've always done – such as half marathons which put a massive strain on your heart," she told the BBC. "The good news is I'm now on a course of drugs and I've changed my lifestyle, and I'm regularly checked by the NHS so in a good place."

Since leaving the show, which was filmed in the summer, Amanda has replaced long-distance running with short bursts of exercise like HIIT classes.

The ex-detective added: "I'm very, very grateful for the show."

In it she bonded with Traitor Rachel Duffy after learning the latter's mother has dementia.

And she now works with an organisation which takes those with disabilities or conditions such as dementia on trips. She has also become an advocate for the British Heart Foundation, keen to use her platform to raise awareness.

"I want to tell people heart disease doesn't have an age – young people get it," she said. "It doesn't have to stop you doing what you love".

Amanda described being in the programme as "intense, fun and nerve-racking" and said the missions were "absolutely hilarious".

DAILY EXPRESS
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Eco energy gambit is an extortionate delusion

ED Miliband's promises of a Britain basking in the glow of green-powered economic prosperity have been exposed as a massively expensive fantasy.

New research suggests the cost of net zero could now reach an eye-boggling £9trillion. Possibly even higher, meaning it is way more than official estimates.

Unrealistic assumptions about borrowing costs, the costs of renewables, heat pumps and electric vehicles have seriously undercooked things.

Such is the astronomical scale, it could be the most expensive policy in British history.

And if the Energy Secretary doesn't pull his finger out, by the end of the decade Britain will be at a greater risk of blackouts than at any time since the 1970s.

Keeping electricity flowing and our society functioning depends on having reliable power stations that we control.

But Miliband's obsession with net zero means that he is building as many wind and solar farms as he can – with no regard for what it means for people's energy bills or our ability to keep the lights on.

The absolute priorities for any energy secretary should be to ensure there are no power outages and to cut people's bills.

Ed Miliband is failing at both.

It's time to stop net zero ideology overriding our energy security and instil some common sense.

Army neglect dangerous

ONE area where we should definitely be spending more money is on defence. Decades of underfunding means we're now in a worse position than before the Second World War.

As the world teeters on the brink of multiple incendiary conflicts the need to beef-up and modernise our armed forces and defence capabilities has never been more prescient.

Labour has pledged to raise overall defence spending from 2.3% to 2.5% of national income by 2027, estimated to cost an extra £6billion a year.

It has then promised it will rise to 3.5% by 2035, in line with a pledge made by Nato countries at a summit last year.

But the reality is that we're facing a £28billion shortfall.

Last month the UK's defence chief warned that Britain's sons and daughters must be ready to fight. If ever there was a wake-up call it was that.

Golden generation

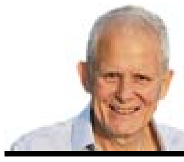
WHAT a night it was for British film and television at the Golden Globes. Netflix drama Adolescence led the way, including with an award for its teenage star Owen Cooper, who took a break from studying for his GCSEs to collect his gong.

With brilliant young talent like that coming through, we can be confident Britain's place at the top table of world entertainment is secure.

Its future is truly golden.

Our country is a mess because MPs aren't up to the job

Parliament is filled by politicians with little real-life experience, says Trust Party



Rupert Darrington

Guest Columnist

JANUARY is when we instinctively take stock. We promise ourselves we will do things differently. We resolve to fix what is broken, rather than simply muddle on and hope for the best. Yet in British politics, New Year after New Year, nothing really changes.

We are still governed by a political class that talks a good game but fails to deliver. Public services cost more and work less well. Big projects overrun and underperform. Crime remains high. Borders remain porous. Living standards stuck. And trust – the essential glue of any functioning democracy – continues to drain away.

For too long, Parliament has been dominated by "professional politicians" – people who have spent their entire working lives inside politics, but who have never run a major organisation, balanced a complex budget, or been accountable for results. They are professional in the narrow sense that politics is their career. But in every sense that matters to ordinary families, they are anything but.

We see the consequences everywhere. Ministers announce NHS reforms while health outcomes deteriorate. They promise cheaper energy but bills rise. They pledge to control spending yet saddle our children with record debt. They talk tough on crime and borders but outcomes barely change.

AND still we are told to trust them. I founded The Trust Party because I believe Britain's problems are not mysterious. They stem from a system that attracts the wrong people, protects incompetence and allows corruption to flourish in plain sight. At the Trust Party, we start from a simple principle: trust must be earned, and competence matters. If we want better outcomes, we need better people making the most important decisions. That means facing some uncomfortable truths. One of them is this: being an MP is the most important job in the country. Everything else ultimately depends on what they do. Yet it is poorly paid relative to what they are responsible for, brutally demanding and increasingly dangerous. Capable people – those who could genuinely improve how Britain is run – rarely stand for Parliament at all. They stay in the private sector, or leave the country.

The result is predictable. We end up governed by individuals who are, on average, significantly less experienced and less capable than the people running major companies, or who are at the top of our professions or who are our leading experts in a multitude of fields.

That is why we argue for higher salaries for MPs and ministers – but only alongside a complete ban on second jobs, consultancies, donations and gifts. Politics should be a full-time profession, properly rewarded by the state and completely insulated from outside financial influence.

Which brings me to corruption. It is extraordinary that we tolerate a system where wealthy individuals and powerful interests pour money into politics for access, influence and favourable treatment. Most voters know this is wrong. Yet politicians refuse to fix it, because the system benefits them.

We would end it. No large donations. No gifts. No revolving door between being in public office and corporate reward. And real prison sentences for those who break the rules.

But competence and integrity are not enough if the public is shut out. Gaping flaws in our democracy also need fixing. Voters should know who they are voting for – including candidates' full backgrounds and any conflicts of interest – before they cast a ballot. The Lords must be elected. And ministers should no longer be allowed to go to war, sign binding international agreements or set immigration policy without the explicit consent of Parliament.

WE also believe Britain needs a freer, more open public debate. Too much media is controlled by too few large corporations, while regulators increasingly decide which opinions are acceptable. A confident country does not fear disagreement. It welcomes it.

At the start of a New Year, people rightly ask themselves: is the direction I'm personally heading in really working? I believe Britain must ask itself the same thing.

We can continue with the same politicians, structures and excuses – and expect the same results. Or we can choose a new path: a political system built around competence, integrity and democratic control.

New Year resolutions only matter if we act on them. The Trust Party has been launched to turn that instinct for change into something real.

● *Rupert Darrington is leader of The Trust Party*

'Politics should be a full-time profession, properly rewarded'

Esther McVey

The voice of common sense

Pray for churches after Reeves raid

LABOUR'S latest attack on Britishness is Rachel Reeves' tax grab on churches.

Not content to be closing down family farms and a pub a week, the new target is Christian churches with its £25,000 cap on the amount of VAT that can be reclaimed for church repairs.

In addition, the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme has been almost halved, slashed from £42million in 2024/25 to £23m for 2025/26.

Churches part way through roof repairs, refurbishments or a new heating system won't be spared this tax change and face being left tens of thousands of pounds in debt.

They are already disappearing as congregations shrink, but this Government is hastening their demise and wiping away another piece of our history.

What a shoddy lot they are.

Safety-first Putin does double take?

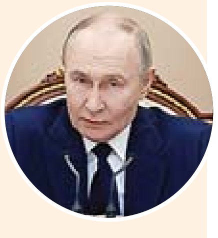
I'M WITH former head of MI6, Sir Richard Dearlove, who thinks Vladimir Putin uses body doubles for public appearances.

This rumour has surfaced after the independent Russian media outlet, Proekt, led an investigation into Putin's "public" meetings.

But why wouldn't he? He's been fearful of assassination attempts for many years. Remember that extraordinary large meeting table he uses in his offices for visiting leaders, seemingly fearful of a sudden lunge? If I was Putin, I would too.

Decision making meetings can be done online or to a security cleared select group, but why take the risk of a public meeting when you can write a pre-prepared script and send the lookalikes out?

I wonder how many other world leaders do it?



Who in the world can trust Starmer?

THE Prime Minister's "Keir today, gone tomorrow" promises are making him just as unreliable and untrustworthy abroad as at home. Starmer's latest domestic U-turn last week, the 12th in 18 months – over business rates for pubs – came after he felt the heat from backbenchers who had been banned from them.

His next U-turn may come as early as this week, over ending the automatic right to jury trials, after backbench Labour MP Karl Turner threatened a by-election – which Labour would almost certainly lose – if Starmer doesn't reverse this policy.

It makes you wonder how on earth he makes such stupid decisions in the first place. Anyone with even an ounce of common sense can see they are idiotic.

For example, who would take £1.4billion off 10 million of the UK's poorest pensioners by scrapping the winter fuel allowance, only then to hand out £100billion more in benefits by the end of the decade.

But while we feel the pain of his lies and U-turns at home, his oscillating and broken promises translate to someone who cannot be relied upon by world leaders.

Venezuela is a case in point. Trump didn't trust telling Starmer about the removal of Maduro. The US is our closest ally – especially when it comes to military operations – but obviously Trump can see that Starmer is not a person to rely on.

Clearly they are polls apart politically. Starmer is an internationalist whilst Trump is a patriot. Starmer sells out the UK at every opportunity like his unfathomable deal to pay Mauritius – an ally of China – to take the Chagos Islands off our hands, whereas Trump unapologetically seeks to do deals to Make America Great Again.

But the schism between the US and the UK is deeper than Starmer and Trump holding different political philosophies. Slippery Starmer's broken promises and constant U-turns make him an untrustworthy ally, especially given he has failed to live up to his promises to increase the UK's expenditure on defence too.

Last week it was revealed that the UK's top military chief, Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Knighton, told the Prime Minister the MoD faces a £28billion shortfall between now and 2030.

And since 2022, when the UK's defence spending as a share of GDP was the third highest in Nato, it has now slumped to 12th place.

Starmer can find billions of pounds to increase the benefits bill, billions for net zero and billions for Mauritius, yet the most important role of the government – defence of the realm – doesn't get a look in.

Starmer and his Cabinet of inadequates need to wake up to the growing risks around the world, start prioritising spending on defence instead of benefits and be a more reliable ally to the US in these dangerous times.

It is one thing that we don't believe a word Starmer says, it is disastrous for the country when our military allies don't either.

Parents deserve more JK dismay

JK ROWLING has thrown her weight behind a petition opposing a proposed NHS trial of puberty blockers on children. She is right to describe it as "an unethical experiment" on those "who can't give meaningful consent".

It's their parents who are giving the permission. Aren't they in need of medical treatment instead – for attempting to sign their children up for this?

GOVERNMENT dithering could cost Britain its last military helicopter factory and around 3,300 manufacturing jobs.

The Westland factory in Yeovil, known as the "home of British helicopters", needs an answer from the Government by the end of March on a make-or-break new contract.

Without it, the UK faces losing sovereign military helicopter production capability at a time of spiralling tensions.

The Government always bangs on about how high-end manufacturing jobs are its top priorities. Well now's its chance to prove it.

LABOUR CLOWNS CAUGHT OUT BY THEIR OWN SLAPSTICK NON-DOM TAX CIRCUS

YOU could not make this up. Caught out by the exodus of wealthy individuals fleeing the country after Labour abolished the UK's non-dom tax status, the Government has had to send civil servants to the City to work on its replacement scheme that allows individuals to avoid tax for the first four years they are here.

The problem is it's proving difficult to attract "talent" at the same time non-doms are leaving the country. What a bunch of clowns. They don't want to admit their mistake so are trying to create a new scheme to hide the climbdown. I'd have thought Starmer and Reeves were used to doing U-turns by now, or is this one just too ideological for them?

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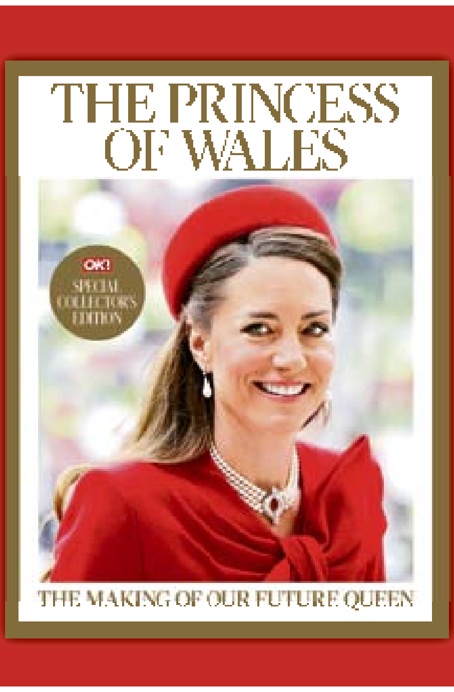

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Mieka Smiles

Local Matters

ONCE upon a time, long before the days of TikTok brain rot, lived online message boards. In fact, wind the clock back a decade or so and, as a knackered mum of two little ones, rather than venting my spleen here, you could have found me there, doing my level best to survive an endless avalanche of nappy changing and tantrums. Life could be quite solitary, frantically Googling each weird new toddler rash, and Mumsnet was a constant source of solace.

The online parenting forum, created by Justine Roberts in 2000, is still hugely popular. But back in my days on the forum it was, dare I say it, a bastion of soft, Leftie politics. And after being bitten on the bum a couple of times with my scandalous views on, you know, people paying their own way, I learned to keep schtum about politics and focus on finding answers from other members on what to do if you're told you're "too much of a loose cannon for the PTA" (true story).

So I was rather shocked to hear just the other day that the members have a growing Nigel Farage fan club. The new Mumsnet political poll shows 20% of users intend to vote Reform UK in the next election.

Loyalties

This places the party ahead of Labour, the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats – and it is the first time since the poll's inception in 2009 that Labour has been beaten.

I'm sure many readers will think – what is she talking about? Who cares? It's one poll on a parenting website. But you'd be wrong. The platform boasts an astonishing eight million users and politicians have hosted live webchats in the hope of securing the "Mumsnet Vote".

So why the sudden switch in Mumsnetter loyalties? In the research, users said they are fuming over taxes, welfare reform – or lack thereof – the NHS and immigration. Well, quite! Aren't we all!

And even though Farage isn't their favourite bloke – the poll found that their overall sentiment for Farage was negative – some said that they liked him as he has "relatability, clear communication, perceived authenticity, political success and consistency". It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that when it comes to relatability Labour is going to flunk the test. They don't help themselves by shoving Rachel Reeves (someone with about as much affability as an AI bot) out in front.

So as the opening bars of Jaws sounds as the local elections approach, Keir Starmer has a new and serious problem. There's a group of people that you should never mess with: British mums.

LAST week Zia Yusuf, head of policy for Reform UK, made the announcement that if his party wins the keys to No 10 at the next election then child rape will result in a mandatory life sentence.

According to the Ministry of Justice there were 677 convictions for rape of children under the age of 16 in 2024. But currently, life sentences are only given to child rapists at a judge's discretion.

Yusuf said it is "a stain on our national conscience that grooming gangs were allowed to operate for years with impunity" and said that some grooming gang child rapists have received sentences as low as four years.

If I was in charge, this would have happened yesterday. Well said, Zia.

GIVEN it's Dry January, I thought I would cheer everyone up with a delightful historical snippet I spotted this week.

As many of us plan to swap the large glasses of wine for broccoli smoothies (not me), I was reminded that a drop or two of the hard stuff can, indeed, be medicinal.

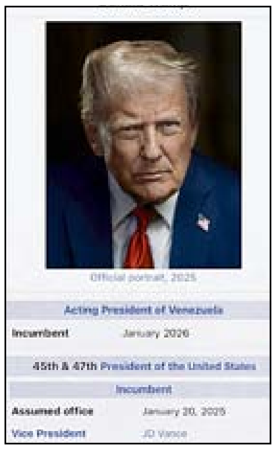
Apparently, during the prohibition in America, our very own Winston Churchill managed to find a way to, shall we say, circumvent the rules.

He apparently carried a doctor's note permitting him to drink unlimited alcohol during a visit in 1932.

The note, signed by his doctor, was due to medical reasons and to be actioned "especially at meal times" with the quantity being "naturally indefinite". Naturally!

That's the spirit, Winston!

mieka.smiles@reachplc.com



Official portrait, 2025

Acting President of Venezuela

Incumbent January 2026

45th & 47th President of the United States

Incumbent

Assumed office January 20, 2025

Vice President JD Vance

US president's doctored post

Trump's Wiki trick shows him as ruler of Venezuela

BY **CATHERINE MACKINLAY**

DONALD Trump declared himself the "Acting President of Venezuela" in a doctored Wikipedia page shared on social media.

The image shows the US president's official portrait and lists his position as incumbent "Acting President of Venezuela" as of January 2026.

However, Mr Trump's actual Wikipedia listing contains no such claim.

The doctored post appears to be a joke at the expense of Venezuela's interim president, Delcy Rodriguez, who was sworn in on January 5.

Mr Trump has previously warned her that she could face serious consequences if she failed to do what the US wanted.

Offences

Her swearing-in followed the capture of president Nicolas Maduro and his wife Cilia by US forces in Caracas.

They are now in custody in New York and charged with drug-related offences.

Mr Trump is due to meet Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado on Thursday.

Ms Machado – who met the Pope yesterday – is touring Europe and the US after she re-emerged in December, following 11 months in hiding, to accept the Nobel Peace Prize.

After winning the award, Ms Machado said she would like to give it to or share it with Trump, who has long coveted the honour. But the Nobel Institute said the award could not be transferred.

Mr Trump snubbed Ms Machado when he allowed Ms Rodriguez to assume control.

GREENLAND'S INVASION FEARS

'I'm telling everyone to keep calm but I also understand they're afraid'

Nuuk mayor Avaaraq Olsen dreads Trump's warships appearing on horizon

FROM **MARK McGIVERN** in Nuuk, Greenland

THE mayor of Greenland's capital city is dreading the day American warships appear on the horizon.

Avaaraq Olsen said it was clear the fear felt among the 20,000-strong Nuuk community was growing daily.

But while UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer is trying to allay fears by coordinating a Nato response to the crisis, Ms Olsen indicated that Greenlanders should have been consulted.

Of the plan, attempting to reassure the US about Greenland's safety by sending Nato troops there, she said: "Denmark or others make plans and announcements about Greenland – but they talk about us without us.

"So if Keir Starmer wants to plan anything like that, he should definitely include the inhabitants of Greenland."

Speaking in her office in Nuuk's Civic Hall, Ms Olsen points to the fjord that is visible from the window and says: "Yesterday I needed to take a walk on the path we have on our coast line.

"It was getting dark, and then a boat came and it was dark and it had no lights on. And suddenly I was wondering, will they [the US] come without the light?

"And even though I've been the one who's telling everyone to keep calm, I also understand that people are afraid.

"I really understand why people are looking towards the sky and the ocean for what might come."

Ms Olsen claims that people have become distressed due to the "fake news" spread directly by Mr Trump and his top-table team – led by his son Donald Jr, who visited Nuuk last January. She said: "To Donald Trump I would say I don't want him here. That would just show another way of disrespecting us if he came.

"I really do think that they have to stop lying about Greenland.

"He said somewhere that we have Russian and Chinese ships surrounding Greenland.

"That kind of state statement is also hurting people in Greenland. Really the lying has to stop."

Ms Olsen said older Greenlanders had been traumatised by the fear of hostile foreign ships arriving, as they assumed that when a powerful head of state made a statement, it would be true. When Trump Jr and top ally Charlie Kirk – who was later murdered in a crime that shook the world – visited Nuuk, Ms Olsen claims more fake news erupted.

Capital Nuuk and, inset, Donald Trump Jr and Charlie Kirk on visit

She said: "That was a circus – or perhaps a s***show." She said Trump Jr's people rounded up unemployed men who congregated, by habit, close to the city's mall.

They were all offered a free lunch at a swanky restaurant and then asked to wear MAGA hats – which resulted in photographs suggesting the Trump team, who arrived on the Force 1 jet, were given a warm welcome by Greenlanders.

Ms Olsen also claims that during the visit schoolchildren were handed US dollars, presumably to win their hearts and minds.

She said: "We had these influencers coming, they handed out $100 bills for children. And they even went to schools, knocked on the door to the classrooms and wanted to interview children and young people, it was so ugly."

Ms Olsen said the protesting of Greenlanders had led to US Vice President JD Vance abandoning his later plans to turn up in Nuuk, and opting instead to visit the US military base at Pituffik.

She said: "For Greenlanders, we are not so outgoing about our opinions. It takes a lot. The existential threat to Greenland has jolted its people in a similar way to the coronavirus crisis.

"When Corona first hit, it felt surreal, like we were in a movie. That's exactly how we feel right now.

"People have these feelings of fear yet I also see people really just trying to live our daily life.

Scary

"When we have the hardest time in Greenland, we laugh. So I think there is a lot of laughing going on, even though it's scary."

Ms Olsen said the people of Greenland do not want to be American or even Danish – they simply want to be free.

She said families were already longing for the day when they can get back to normal. Ms Olsen is hopeful that a summit with Greenlandic, Danish and American political leaders next week will offer a glimmer of hope.

She said: "Whatever comes of that can give us an idea of how this is going to develop from here, because right now it's so hard to imagine. Everything changes from day to day."

Greenlanders snapped in MAGA caps

National 10-year health plan 'is not fit for purpose'

BY **ELLA PICKOVER**

PLANS to help boost the health of the nation do not focus enough on physical activity, experts say.

While the government aims to move its focus from "sickness to prevention", its 10-year health plan for England "does not represent a coherent national strategy" on improving exercise participation.

Health think-tank The King's Fund said physical activity is one of the most "powerful tools in preventative medicine" by reducing the risk of a number of common conditions. And it suggested that initiatives to get people more active are leaving disadvantaged people behind.

In a post published by the King's Fund, GP Bonar McGuire said that initiatives such as five-minute workout videos for children are "unlikely" to engage those in deprived areas.

And only a minority of people who take part in community running events are from the poorest neighbourhoods. Dr McGuire says that these schemes, and a newly proposed walking and running campaign, "primarily attract people who are already physically active".

He added that a comprehensive national strategy on how to improve physical activity is needed and should "focus on locally designed solutions that target the least active people who have not engaged with non-specific national initiatives".

The Department of Health was approached for comment.

Physical activity plans 'must be more localised'

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100,000 back petition to stop puberty blockers trial

BY **KATIE HARRIS**
Senior Political Correspondent

WES Streeting is facing fresh calls to halt a controversial NHS puberty-blocker trial after a petition against it passed 100,000 signatures.

Critics say the clinical study, which will involve more than 200 children as young as eight, should be axed amid concerns for their health.

The petition on Parliament's website was launched on Thursday and saw a surge in support after being shared by JK Rowling on Sunday.

"I've signed. This is an unethical experiment on children who can't give meaningful consent," said the Harry Potter author, *pictured*. Labour MP Jonathan Hinder called on the Health Secretary to "think again".

He added: "The speed of this petition reaching 100k signatures shows the strong public opposition to this.

"Labour voters oppose puberty blockers by a margin of four to one."

Helen Joyce, of campaign group Sex Matters, said: "Most people really, truly hate the idea of harming children in the name of ideology.

"The government needs to take note – people loathe the idea and won't forgive anyone who is involved."

Prof Karol Sikora, a consultant oncologist, said it was "good to see this petition doing well".

He added: "I've spent over half a century in medicine and I certainly do not approve of using puberty-blocking medicine on healthy young children. It is dangerous and wrong."

The petition must now be considered for a debate by MPs after passing the milestone of 100,000 names.

The trial was recommended by the Cass Review into children's gender care, which concluded that the quality of research claiming to show the benefits of puberty blockers for youngsters with gender dysphoria was "poor".

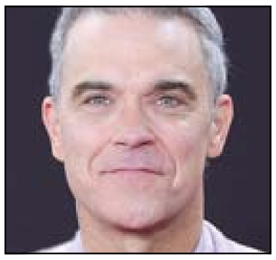
Mr Streeting last month admitted the decision to go ahead was "one that I wrestle with on a daily basis". He also said he was "uncomfortable" both with the study and ban on puberty blockers from December 2024.

He told MPs on the Health and Social Care Committee: "All the way through I've had to weigh up risk of harm to children and young people, which is why it's not straightforward."

Tory leader Kemi Badenoch and Reform UK's Nigel Farage have called for the trial to be axed.

The Department of Health was asked for comment.

● *The petition is at https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/751839*



Pop singer Robbie Williams

Robbie and Take That to 'ride again'

BY **CASEY COOPER-FISKE**

ROBBIE Williams has said he will perform with his old boyband Take That again, and that he has another six solo albums in the works.

With the band to revive 2009's The Circus Live tour this summer, Robbie was asked whether he would join it.

The 51-year-old said: "Would I return to Take That to do the Circus again? I did love it last time. I'm sure we will ride again." Though he added it was "not in my plans right now".

Robbie also told BBC Radio 2's The Scott Mills Breakfast Show he had another five albums planned after the release of Britpop in February this year.

He added: "I'm still incredibly ambitious and I love my work."

Hosts Chris, Michaela and Iolo

Winterwatch heads to NI for first time

BY **CARLA FERIC**

WINTERWATCH will return to the BBC from January 23, broadcasting live from Northern Ireland for the first time.

The BBC Two show – presented by Chris Packham, Michaela Strachan and Iolo Williams – will air from Strangford Lough, in County Down.

Chris, 64, said: "I've been visiting Northern Ireland since the early 1990s and always saw it as very unspoilt."

Pine martens, red squirrels and badgers are expected to feature in the new series.

But Chris said: "The great joy of our live programmes is there's always something new and you don't know what it's going to be, and that's part of what keeps us coming back to it."

MasterChef's Wallace says sorry as he defends the show's 'spotted dick' innuendoes

Wallace, and left, with former MasterChef co-host John Torode

BY **JERRY LAWTON**

GREGG Wallace has offered a fresh apology over his behaviour on MasterChef, while still insisting: "That was the culture."

The 61-year-old admitted there was "no excuse" for lashing out at those who accused him of inappropriate behaviour while working on the show – but then offered the excuse that he had felt "backed into a corner".

The shamed TV star and former greengrocer said he had been wrong to dismiss his accusers as "middle-class women of a certain age".

But he said he was still bemused by his downfall and questioned "whether the standards by which I was judged were knowable in advance".

He said he had spent 20 years honing his behaviour to a "culture that was engineered from the top down".

Energy

He said the show's directors would "whip us up with energy and excitement" and that his job was to put contestants at ease with his humour.

Wallace added: "I genuinely thought everyone thought it was hilarious. I saw the people around me making these jokes and assumed they were a normal, encouraged part of workplace behaviour, and that when I did it, it would be perceived the same way. Nobody ever told me otherwise.

"Nobody – not a director, producer, or colleague – ever said, 'Oi, Gregg, pack it in'. In fact, it was the opposite. The energy was encouraged."

Wallace was sacked by the BBC last July after an investigation upheld 45 allegations including inappropriate sexual language and humour, "being in a state of undress", and one incident of unwelcome physical contact.

He has since tried to forge a new career as a personal trainer and broadcasts healthy recipes on TikTok.

In a lengthy apology on media platform Substack, Wallace appeared to downplay what he said were the most serious allegations against him.

He wrote: "Eighteen years ago in a closed studio with only myself and three friends present, I came out of my dressing room wearing a shirt and a sock over my bits. Everybody fell about laughing. The investigation confirmed that everyone present was amused. Nobody was offended.

"There was also one incident of physical contact. Seventeen years ago, at a party, I had my arm around a woman while we were talking and had my hand on her bum for at least five minutes. I believed it was consensual."

In another incident when someone entered his dressing room as he was changing, he had taken off his shirt to have a microphone fitted and lifted his T-shirt to "show off my six-pack".

Wallace admitted the banter on the show was "colourful" but moaned he was a victim of changing attitudes.

He wrote: "Let's start with the one thing I can say, without any doubt, that I got completely wrong.

"When the media first reported the allegations I dismissed the people making complaints as 'middle-class women of a certain age'. It was a stupid, defensive, and arrogant thing to say. I felt like I was being backed into a corner, and I lashed out."

Though he admitted the humour on set had been "bawdy", he claimed it was no different to other shows including The Great British Bake Off.

He said: "I would bring real high energy into that studio. I relied on innuendo quite heavily. Food is full of innuendo. Spotted dick, nuts, the rim of a glass, little tarts…we leaned into it. All of us. I'd see cameramen making phallic shapes out of leftover ingredients on the bench. I'd join in conversations about sex and relationships because that's what everyone in the studio was talking about.

"I wasn't a lone wolf making crude comments...I was part of an ensemble that was noisy, energetic, and yes, sometimes crude. That was the job. That was the culture. I behaved the way I thought was expected of me."

Wallace said "the rules changed" in 2018 when a complaint was made on a different show and he got a formal warning for inappropriate and unprofessional language.

He said: "Suddenly, the very thing I'd been rewarded for across five TV shows was a problem."

Crude

Admitting it would have been difficult for contestants to object to his behaviour, he added: "I can see now that it would be hard for someone to complain about a crude joke if everyone around them was laughing along, including management.

"I also never considered that contestants might not have spoken up for fear it would affect their chances in the competition.

"Those were failings on my part. What I question is whether the standards by which I was judged were knowable in advance."

Wallace's MasterChef co-host John Torode, 60, was axed a week after him last July after the BBC upheld a complaint he used an "extremely offensive racist term" during production – though he said he had "no recollection" of it.

Mint's 50p souvenir of Concorde launch

BY **VICKY SHAW**

A NEW 50p coin celebrating Concorde has been launched, marking 50 years since the aircraft's first commercial flight.

The Royal Mint coin was made in partnership with British Airways and Airbus. Its reverse or "tails" side portrays the aircraft in flight, against a backdrop of a departures board, with the word Concorde across the centre.

1976 - 2003
CONCORDE

The supersonic passenger jet was a joint venture between Sud Aviation and the British Aircraft Corporation and entered service in 1976. It was retired in 2003.

The coin was unveiled at Concorde's home, the Aerospace Bristol museum.

The Royal Mint's Rebecca Morgan said: "The design perfectly captures Concorde's grace and power."

The coin is available on the Mint's website for £15.

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SOARING ROLE OF THE

Sophie with Edward and their children James and Louise

BY **ANNA POINTER**

WITH her 61st birthday just around the corner, Sophie the Duchess of Edinburgh's growing bond with the Princess of Wales is a sign of her soaring royal importance.

Long seen as the family's secret weapon, Sophie's close affinity with Kate is now considered one of the monarchy's biggest strengths.

Former BBC royal correspondent Jennie Bond said: "They have a lot in common.

"I'm sure that Sophie was an invaluable mentor for the princess as she learned about royal ways of life.

"I think they're now much more like friends than aunt and niece, and the two of them have established a very solid friendship which will serve our future Queen well.

"Sophie is not so much a 'secret' weapon these days: she's an outright star of the royal family."

Kate, 44, is said to have called Sophie – whose birthday is on January 20 – a "tower of strength" as she battled cancer.

Jennie adds: "I'm sure it's been a comfort for the princess to know that Sophie was on hand during the last difficult couple of years. After all, Sophie had her own serious health problems with an ectopic pregnancy and a very difficult birth."

Spotlight

Although Sophie is 17 years older than Kate, the two women are similar in that they both came from non-aristocratic backgrounds before marrying into the family.

Sophie wed Prince Edward, 61, in 1999, while Kate tied the knot with Prince William, 43, in 2011.

"Life has thrown these two women together quite randomly, and landed them on what must have seemed like an alien planet at first," says Jennie.

"The rest of us can only imagine what it must be like to find yourself suddenly inside palace walls."

The pair have been snapped smiling together at events, including the annual Order of the Garter service and Wimbledon.

Kate, who is mum to Prince George, Princess Charlotte and Prince Louis, and Sophie, mum to Lady Louise Windsor and James, Earl of Wessex, no doubt swap parenting tips, too.

"Sophie has been able to give her children as normal a life as possible, while bringing them up in the public eye," says ITV News royal editor Chris Ship.

"The spotlight they're under is not as great as the one on Kate's children, but it's nice to see Kate and Sophie have that rapport. When they're at an engage-

On visit to Democratic Republic of the Congo

'Tower of strength', mentor, friend... Sophie's bond with Kate is one of the monarchy's biggest strengths

Sophie plays key role at the heart of the royal family. Right, With nephew William at Cornwall show

With Kate at a Christmas carol service last month

Sophie and Kate have developed strong bond

ment together, you can see their close bond."

Royal insiders describe Sophie as down to earth, a safe pair of hands, warm, genuine and professional. She met Edward while working for Capital Radio in 1987 and went on to set up a public relations agency before becoming a full-time royal in 2002.

She was widely considered Queen Elizabeth II's favourite daughter-in-law, with Sophie calling the Queen "mama" and the Queen saying Sophie was "good for our Ed". Sophie has taken on a bigger workload in recent months to support King Charles, 77, through his cancer treatment, and is a go-to representative.

IT must be of great comfort for the King," adds Jennie. "The warmth of their relationship is obvious. She is completely relaxed with her brother-in-law and they often seem to share a joke."

Sophie has also developed a close rapport with nephew Prince William.

"They occasionally carry out engagements together," says Jennie. "They're extremely comfortable in each other's company."

Sophie champions survivors of sexual violence in conflict zones and was the first royal to visit both the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2022 and Baghdad, Iraq, in 2023. "Sophie is a champion of incredibly difficult causes," adds Jennie.

"Her work has taken her to dangerous countries, but she has never flinched and often goes under the radar.

"She speaks with authority and her passion shines through. She is also a skilful diplomat, and was the first member of the family to visit Ukraine during the conflict.

"She took with her a message of solidarity from the King. The fact that he charged her with that is another example of her seniority within the monarchy.

"Her value to the family really is no longer a secret."

● *For more see this week's OK! Magazine.*

HORRIFIC ORDEALS

COMMENT

MUHAMMAD FAWAD ZAFAR

Senior strategist for SKT Welfare

FOR SKT Welfare, humanitarian work has always been hands-on. We prioritise being close to communities, staying transparent and understanding realities on the ground.

That is why we bring volunteers into the field. We want people to see for themselves how aid reaches families, to meet beneficiaries, and to understand what daily life looks like in crisis settings.

Spending time with communities builds trust and responsibility, helping people understand how aid is delivered and sustained, and making the act of giving less distant and more personal.

One of the most significant priorities for SKT Welfare in recent years has been Gaza. The organisation has worked there continuously since 2014 through a locally registered office and Palestinian staff leading programmes on the ground.

This long-term presence has allowed SKT Welfare to continue operating despite border closures and severe restrictions. Current programmes include kitchens providing around 4,000 meals a week, tankers delivering 36,000 litres of clean water every day, orphan sponsorship and medical support.

As Gaza's healthcare system has come under extreme strain, SKT Welfare has also supported hospitals by supplying essential items and helping cover salaries for doctors and nurses.

Support for Gazans also extends beyond Gaza. In Jordan, we help families with children transferred for urgent medical treatment. While treatment is often free, families get little help with living costs so we cover accommodation and basic expenses.

EXCLUSIVE

FROM **HANNA GEISSLER** in Jordan
PICTURES BY **HUMPHREY NEMAR**

‘Our tired

RASLAN Al Raifi sits on his hospital bed, quietly playing with the orange wing of a model aeroplane as his aunt Marwa describes how his parents were killed in Gaza.

The three-year-old was sleeping on the floor of their home and survived the blast but suffered a pelvic fracture and internal bleeding.

He was later evacuated to Jordan to get treatment for kidney injuries.

The horrific ordeal left Raslan so traumatised he did not speak for three months, Marwa, 35, recalls.

She proudly shows us videos of her late brother-in-law, an actor and singer, on social media.

Marwa says: “When they ask Raslan, ‘Where is your father, your mother?’, he says, ‘In paradise’.

“Two weeks before she died, my sister told me she hoped a ceasefire would start soon, and if it did, she would give me a gift. She died before the ceasefire started and now I think maybe that gift was her son.”

Hospital in Jordan is treating children

Hundreds of sick and injured Gazan children – including those with cancer, heart defects and war injuries – have been brought to Jordan through a “medical corridor” initiative launched by King Abdullah II. Raslan chose Marwa to care for him after doctors gathered his relatives. She left her four daughters in Gaza to travel with him to Luzmila Hospital in Jordan’s capital, Amman.

A sparse room, on a corridor shared with the families of other war-injured children, has been their home for 40 days.

Marwa says the pair will return to Gaza once Raslan’s treatment is finished. She adds: “We have lost everything in Gaza, but we still love this city and we want to go back home.”

Data released in September by the Government Media Office in Gaza showed at least 20,000 children – one in 50 of the besieged enclave’s child population – had been killed since terror attacks by Hamas triggered a devastating war with Israel on October 7, 2023.

At least 132,000 children are said to be at risk of death from acute malnutrition. Some 97% of schools and 94% of hospitals have been damaged by intense bombardment.

The Express joined UK volunteers from charity SKT Welfare on a visit to Luzmila, where patients are having treatment sponsored by the Jordanian government.

In a room opposite Raslan’s, Faten Al Tayyef, 12, greets us with a bright smile. She lost her eye after it was hit by shrapnel and travelled from Gaza with dad, Khalid, and aunt, Reema.

Faten, who is waiting for a prosthetic eye, says she misses her four siblings and mother who remain in Gaza. But she and Khalid, 35, do not want to return. Their home was destroyed quickly in the fighting and a tent became their only shelter. Khalid says: “The situation in Gaza has become very difficult.

“We had no food, no drink, no clean water, no housing. We were glad when we left but at the same time, we left our hearts in Gaza.

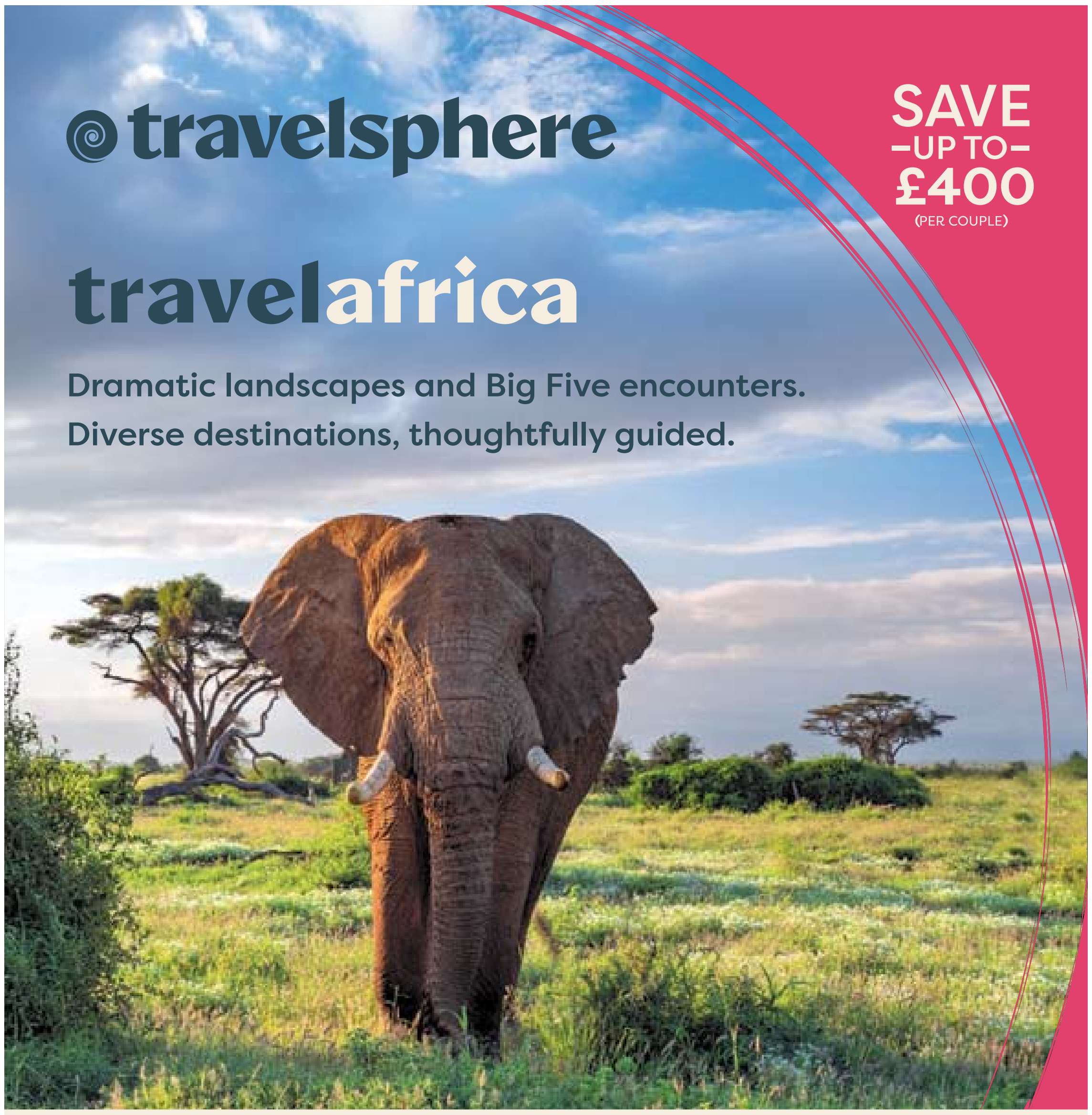
“Honestly, we don’t have a future right now, especially there.

“It’s a mess. I would like to take my wife and kids to start a new life here or anywhere outside Gaza.

“I don’t care which country, just so they can truly feel alive.”

A day later, we return to the hospital so volunteers can help four families move belongings into a bus.

SKT Welfare has paid for them to move into nearby hotel rooms and flats at a cost of around £85 per fam-



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OF YOUNG VICTIMS OF GAZA WAR

Pictures: HUMPHREY NEMAR

Raslan, three, did not speak for months after blast broke his pelvis and injured his kidneys. Inset, Nasim, 15, who has hearing problems, with mum Horiya

children don't play, they're ...they grew up too early'

ily, per day, for up to three months. Marwa embraces hospital staff and passes a rose to one woman as they say a tearful goodbye. She tells us: "The hospital has become part of my family. I didn't like saying goodbye to the people we lived with for 40 days.

"But I'm happy now we're in an independent place of dignity.

"I'm scared to love people now because anyone I love, I eventually lose them. I loved my sister the most, she was like my twin."

Nasim Al Zamli, 15, boards the bus with mum Horiya, 52. He has a neurological disorder and is suffering from hearing problems from explosions. Nasim's father was killed in March and he left behind three sisters and a brother when a transfer from Gaza to Jordan was arranged by the World Health Organisation.

Horiya grows tearful as she describes conditions at home and the impact of the war on youngsters.

She says: "Children don't have freedom, they don't play or live their childhood. I want everyone to see how they wait for food from the charitable collections, how they stand in a long queue for water.

"They are tired, they grew up too early. And we adults can't bear it either. I want the world to find a solution, to finish this war.

"What's happening cannot be imagined and it has to be stopped."

A study published by Cambridge University last week found two years of war have left many Palestinian children too weak to learn or play.

It warned of a lost generation of kids who have missed five years of schooling due to the pandemic and war and whose lives have been blighted by fear and hopelessness.

Nasim cannot read properly. His mum Horiya adds: "I hope to see my daughters again, but not in the same situation – not in the war."

● *SKT Welfare operates in 16 countries. Anyone over 18 can apply.*

Faten, 12, lost her eye to shrapnel

EVERY ACT OF KINDNESS is Sadaqah

SKT volunteers packing and preparing food parcels in the capital Amman

WE'LL HAVE

EXCLUSIVE

By Karen Rockett

REMEMBER when we thought the future would mean wearing Bacofoil suits and driving to work in a Jetsons-style aero-car? The 21st century, of course, didn't quite turn out how the popular futuristic children's cartoon predicted – but in many ways it looks wackier than we could have imagined.

Now leading futurologist and author Tom Cheesewright, who advises companies on how to plan and prepare for the future, has predicted the top 10 scientific and technological breakthroughs we can expect to see by 2050.

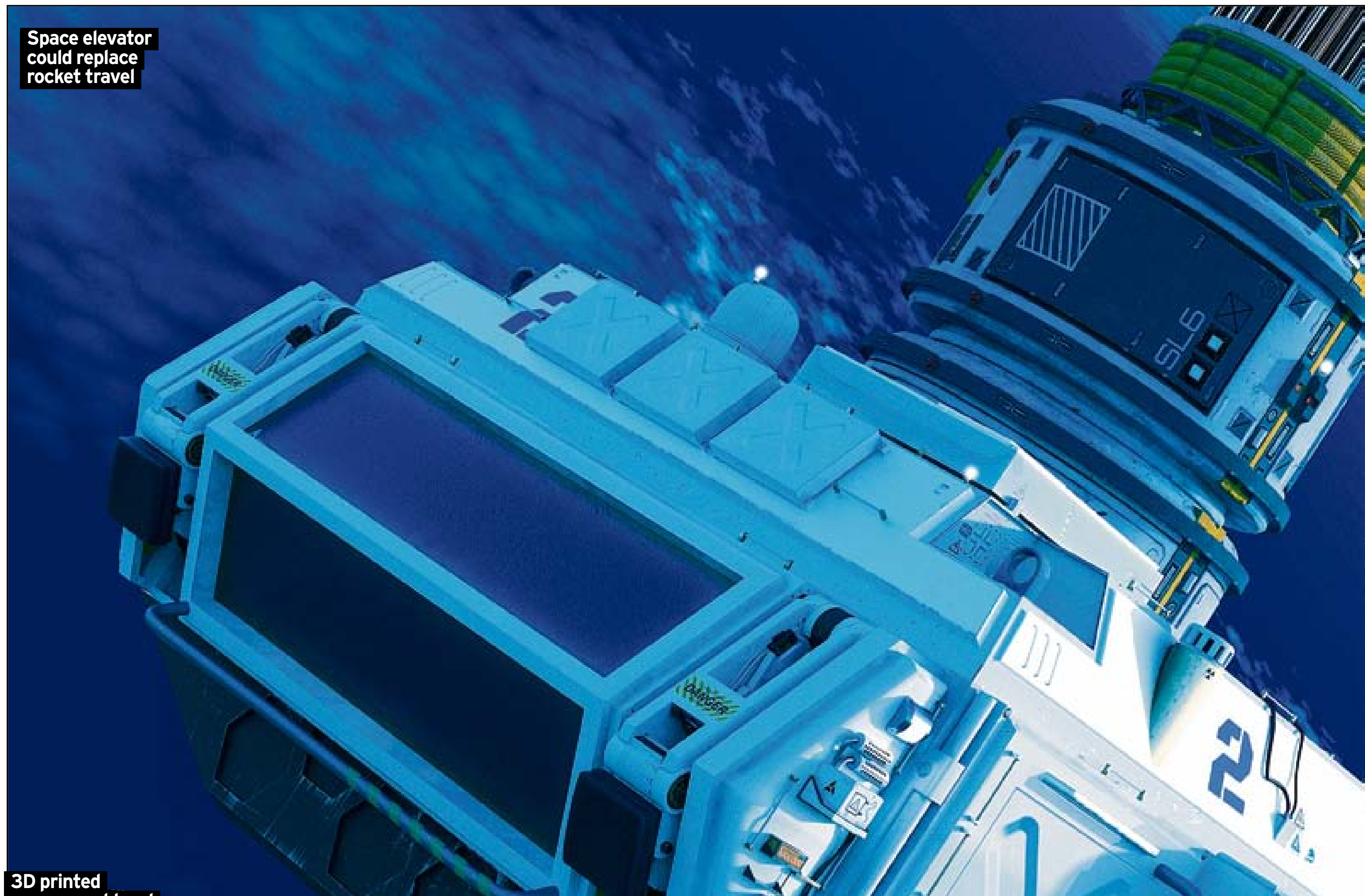
"Human beings have a deep-seated ingenuity, and while I understand the future can be scary, we have every reason to be hopeful," he says.

In fact, Cheesewright, who has a degree in mechatronic engineering, believes the next 24 years have the potential to be the greatest era of progress in human history.

His top predictions for 2050 come as just one in six people say they feel optimistic about the future of the world, according to research from Zurich Insurance.

Some 63% of respondents who are old enough to remember the turn of the century say they are gloomier now than they were 25 years ago.

"It's become fashionable to bemoan a future dominated by AI, robotics and relentless technological change – but really, we have a lot to look forward to," says Cheesewright. "Here are the key breakthroughs that I am most excited about as we look towards the second half of the 21st century..."



Space elevator could replace rocket travel

3D printed organs could end transplant lists

SPACE ELEVATOR

"A space elevator is something man has been imagining since the 1960s.

"The next frontier of space travel and exploration will finally see the construction of the world's first space elevator, a towering structure with the dual purpose of carrying both cargo and passengers into orbit.

"Rockets are incredibly expensive and create a huge amount of greenhouse emissions. Every space agency in the world is currently trying to work out how to build an elevator to space and what can be used for the cables." (Graphene and carbon nanotubes, apparently.)

"Quieter, cleaner and less dramatic than a rocket ship, the eventual ascent will take a couple of weeks, offering a sustainable way to escape Earth's pull, with unparalleled views along the way."

BIO-PRINTED ORGANS

"Ready access to 3D bio-printers will see complex organs and even eyes produced using patients' own cells, with zero rejection risks and no waiting times for matching donors.

"We can already do this with cartilage and simple tissue formations like ears, noses and blood vessels – but imagine being able to do it with more complex organs like hearts, kidneys and livers. We could eventually end transplant lists, which will have a huge impact on many people's quality of life."

PERSONAL AI AS A HEALTH COACH

"Preventative medicine will become the norm. Genetic screening will be widely available and followed by risk-based testing and targeted interventions, so many issues will be addressed before they become illnesses.

"Personalised, data-led care paths, supported by constant biometric and personal AIs, will be able to help people stick to professional health advice – planning meals, building habits, and supporting treatment. Life expectancy has risen modestly, but the big win is quality of life in later years: more health, productivity, and connection."

ANDROID AND ROBOT ROOMMATES

"Domestic androids and robot companions will be common, though not universal. "They're going to be compact when idle, often bought on finance or subscription, and gain new capabilities through software.

"Most sync with the user's personal AI and will handle routine chores such as laundry, cleaning, whilst also offering companionship. Top-end models will cook as well! With more people living alone and longer in the future, an android can provide some companionship and help with mundane household tasks as older people become less mobile – even if it can't replace real human interaction."

SMART GLASSES INSTEAD OF SMART SCREENS

"It might be hard to imagine now, but we're standing at the edge of the last era of handheld devices. Personal tech will have largely disappeared. Where 2025 was device-centric, 2050 is environment-centric.

LIFTS OFF!

Futurologist and author Tom Cheesewright

Elevators to space, robot roommates and bio-printed organs are among the technological developments that could become reality by 2050, says futurologist Tom Cheesewright

Bioprinting could even create eyes

Smart glasses will replace screens

Robots and humans will have closer links

AI will anticipate needs, so buttons and switches will become rarer (though many people will keep manual overrides).

"In the next 25 years, smart glasses will become the dominant tool used for seeing and communicating with the world around us. Most viewing and communication will happen through smart glasses.

"They layer augmented reality on to the physical world with people, objects and tools you can interact with. Voice and gesture are the main inputs, with AI smoothing out errors. Virtual keyboards will still exist for heavy writing but aren't central any more."

FLAT-SCREEN TVS AS THIN AS PAPER

"Remember when it was predicted TVs would become as thin as 5cm? Screens around the house will also continue shrinking until they are barely noticeable, with TVs becoming as thin as wallpaper, painted on to surfaces without sacrificing a single pixel of ultra-high-resolution clarity. At the moment, it's just about making sure that technology is reliable enough that quality isn't sacrificed."

LAB-GROWN MEAT

"The rate we eat meat will continue to fall, as alternative sources of protein become more common, and the remaining carnivores opt for quality over quantity.

"Lab-grown meat will be cheap enough and tasty enough to be a viable option for those hoping to reduce meat consumption on ethical grounds."

"Lab-grown meat or cultivated meat is cellbased meat or simulated muscle tissue created with a scaffolding of proteins and other materials supporting real animal cells. It is estimated that by 2040, 35% of the global meat market will be lab grown.

INSECTS AND ALTERNATIVE GRAINS ON MENU

"Alternative grains such as einkorn, kernza and sorghum offer resilience where water is scarce, though improving yields will rely on genetic advances.

"Insects will also become a part of many menus. While we are unlikely to shift to eating them whole any time soon, they provide a good source of protein in a powdered form and add a nutty flavour to pasta and bread. A third of UK adults already claim they'd be willing to eat insects."

DECEPTION STUDIES AND VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS

"Media literacy will become a core subject. Deception studies will teach students to spot AI-generated fakes and deepfakes, building resilience, analytical skill, and ethical awareness. The aim is to restore the ability to identify truth, not just to fuel scepticism.

"High-fidelity VR will bring lived experiences into the classroom. Students will visit the Jurassic era to study ecosystems or practise Latin in simulated Roman towns. These trips count like fieldwork and make learning stick."

SMARTER MONEY AUTOMATION

"Spending will be easier with biometrics, delegated AIs, digital currencies and abundant credit. Personal AIs will act like financial stewards: they optimise bills and subscriptions, switch banks and utilities for daily savings, and negotiate with retailer AIs.

"Crucially, they also follow your values, not just price, so your purchases align with what matters to you.

"Insurance will be priced in real time. Location, behaviour, health and activity data feed continuous repricing engines that match premiums to moment-by-moment risk. People will trade some privacy for lower costs, while regulators focus on fairness, transparency and recourse."

● *To read Tom Cheesewright's predictions in full, visit zurich.co.uk/meet-tomorrow*

Kyrylo Trantin tends to one of the animals at the zoo

Zoo boss: ‘There are bomb shelters for our visitors but nowhere to take the animals’

LIFE IN KYIV

JOHN MARONE

Despatch from the frontline

DURING nearly four years of Russian attacks on the Ukrainian capital, the city’s zoo has shown itself to be a model of humanity.

Director Kyrylo Trantin, a 25-year veteran at the park, has had to continually find ways to protect the creatures under his care from air attacks, power blackouts and a never-ending flow of animal refugees.

He said: “There are bomb shelters for our visitors but nowhere to take the animals.”

Luckily, he added, the zoo has never taken a direct hit, nor lost any animals or staff. But there have been lots of close calls...

“We recently had a Shahed [drone] come down on us but it got stuck in a cluster of trees, just missing a nearby glass enclosure.”

Explosions

And as war rages on around it, the zoo has regularly had to replace broken windows and repair buildings damaged from blast waves. He said: “We just patch them up with fibreglass and plywood.”

And although many of the animals tolerate the din of explosions fairly well, he said, some experience something akin to PTSD.

“At one point, Horace, our elephant, started behaving strangely, so we put him on special treatment,” Kyrylo explained.

The main challenge for the Kyiv Zoo, however, has been caring for all the new animals it receives. “Volunteers bring them when private menageries run out of money to take care of them,” he said.

To house them, the zoo has had to build new premises or remodel existing ones. Newcomers over the years have included a tiger from Kharkiv, a crocodile from Zaporizhzhya and a pair of lemurs called Adam and Eve from Kherson – all from places closer to the front.

These animals come without paperwork documenting their health or vaccination history, which means it is difficult if not impossible to transfer them to better equipped zoos in Europe.

Kyrylo said: “So we take them in. Otherwise they would perish.”

Luckily, Trantin and his people have received assistance. “We have got feed from German zoos and this is crucial because it’s packaged and can be stored,” he explained.

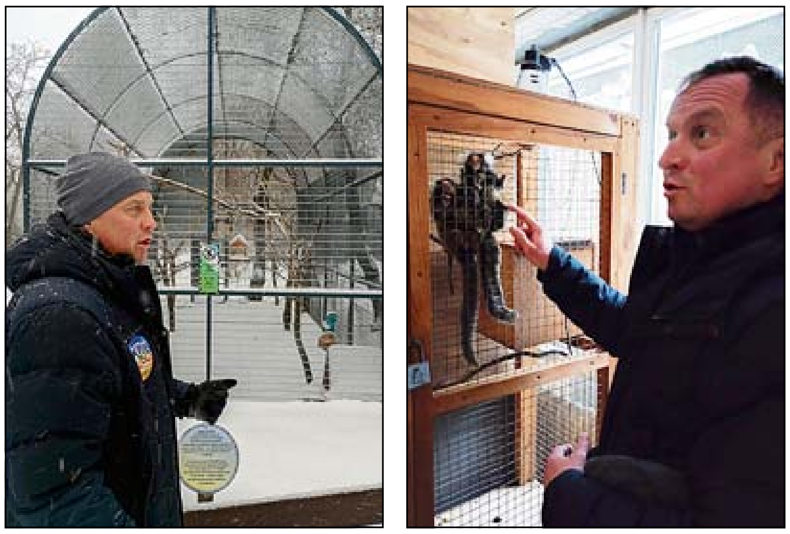
The Kyiv Zoo operates kitchens for those that require hot feed daily. But during power outages this becomes difficult, necessitating the use of diesel generators and batteries like everywhere else in the city.

Help has also come in from closer to home. “When the war started we were closed to the public. But people were calling in to ask how they could help. I could not accept cash, so they began buying tickets online anyway, sometimes up to £150 worth,” he said.

For its part, the zoo is assisting wounded or traumatised Ukrainian soldiers through its rehabilitation programme.

Kyrylo said: “We take wounded or traumatised animals that we have adopted to veterans hospitals and say, ‘look this animal is also injured but lives on’.”

As part of the same scheme, the zoo has invited tens of thousands of children – psychologically traumatised or disabled from the war – to visit the park free of charge as a form of rehabilitation.



Caring director Kyrylo makes his rounds at the snowbound zoo in central Kyiv

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Scott Chilton is now retired

'Sex on duty' officer will face hearing

BY **BEN MITCHELL**

A FORMER chief constable is to face a disciplinary hearing over allegations of having sex on the job and failing to disclose a relationship with another officer.

Scott Chilton retired from the top role at Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary in April 2025, after the allegations emerged of two workplace liaisons.

It is alleged he "had sex with an officer while on duty before becoming chief constable" and he "repeatedly and dishonestly denied the relationship [to top brass] while chief constable".

And it is claimed he "abused his position for a sexual purpose having a sexual relationship with an officer and failed to declare this relationship".

The Independent Office for Police Conduct said he will face a gross misconduct panel after a referral by Hampshire's police and crime commissioner. IOPC boss Derrick Campbell said: "Mr Chilton should face a hearing."

Grope cops' prison terms suspended

BY **HELEN WILLIAM**

TWO police officers who sexually assaulted a woman while off duty have been spared jail.

Jerome Beasley, 43, and Luke Robinson, 40, touched her breasts at the Hippodrome Casino in Central London in April 2024, ignoring her pleas for them to stop.

They changed their plea to guilty days before their trial at Southwark crown court where yesterday Judge Mark Weekes said they had "betrayed the uniform you both wore".

Married Robinson, from Northampton, got a 15-month term and Beasley, of Harrow, North West London, 18 months, both suspended for two years.

Both were fired from the Met Police's Central West command unit.

'Posh shoplifter' avoids jail again after swiping £12k of premium booze

Pauline Al Said went on a nine-month shoplifting spree mainly targeting Sainsbury's

BY **PAUL JEEVES** Crime Editor

A SERIAL shoplifter who boasted she is "the UK's poshest thief" has avoided prison yet again after her biggest crime campaign to date, in which she stole £12,000 worth of goods.

Polish-born Pauline Al Said nicknamed herself the "posh thief" after she repeatedly stole hundreds of pounds worth of goods from premium supermarkets Waitrose and M&S.

But in her latest raids the 35-year-old former criminology lecturer took £11,964 worth of goods, mostly in the form of "expensive vodka, gin, prosecco and wine", in a spree which primarily targeted Sainsbury's.

A court heard she concealed the bottles in her trolley by placing "Disney dresses and dressing gowns" on them. But after admitting the seven thefts, Al Said received an 18-month suspended prison sentence and was told she will have to repay Sainsbury's just £1,800 – little more than 15% of what she stole.

EXPRESS CRUSADE
STOP THE SHOPLIFTERS

The Express Stop The Shoplifters campaign is demanding tougher sentences for serial thieves, with retailers claiming the criminal justice system is failing to protect them.

Al Said, who moved to Southampton from Poland in 2007 and has worked as a lecturer in criminology at Bath Spa University, gained notoriety after previously stealing more than £1,000 of Le Creuset cookware, steaks, wine and gin.

She subsequently labelled herself the "UK's poshest thief" on her X account. She claimed she has attempted to go straight and work as a life coach, giving advice to people so they can "start living a life that feels as good as it looks".

Peter Shaw, prosecuting, told Southampton crown court that the latest spree began on June 22, 2024, at a Sainsbury's in the town where she stole more than 30 bottles of vodka, gin, prosecco and wine.

CCTV captured Al Said brazenly taking the items from the shelves. Three days later she stole £2,032.79 worth and in February 2025, she stole £1,865.80.

Then in July she stole 32 bottles from a different Sainsbury's totalling £798 before going to the store's café to read a stolen newspaper.

In another charge she took 58 bottles of alcohol and 15 packets of meat. The prosecutor said: "These items were stolen to be sold to fund Ms Al Said's drug addiction."

Emily Jarrod, in mitigation, said her client is "highly educated and has worked in the criminal justice system" adding: "You might say that's worse because she should understand the impact her actions have."

Sentencing, Judge Gary Lucie said: "This was a campaign of high-value shoplifting. But you have shown what I consider to be genuine remorse."

He passed a sentence of 44 weeks' custody suspended for 18 months, with Al Said attending 28 rehabilitation days.

She has been banned from Sainsbury's for 18 months.

Family's battle to save Christmas Day pond fall toddler

BY **KATIE DICKINSON**

THE family of a little girl who died after falling into a pond on Christmas Day desperately tried to save her with CPR, an inquest opening heard yesterday.

Two-year-old Isobel Abigail Maxwell died after the incident in the garden of the family home.

An inquest into Isobel's death in Doncaster, South Yorks, was opened and adjourned by senior coroner Nicola Mundy.

Coroner's officer Scarlett Harrison told the brief hearing the incident was reported to police at around 4.45pm on December 25 by the ambulance service. She said: "The family commenced CPR straight away, called 999, CPR was ongoing for 25 minutes before Isobel was blue-lighted to Doncaster Royal Infirmary."

Her death was confirmed in hospital at about 5.55pm that day, the hearing was told.

The coroner heard that Isobel's father Aaron had confirmed her identity and the family had chosen a funeral director for a planned cremation. The case was adjourned until September 14, when a full inquest will be held.

Following the tragedy, Isobel's mother Tamara Wallace thanked the hundreds who contributed to an online fundraiser to create a memorial fairy garden. More than £36,000 has been raised so far.

Ms Wallace said: "The generosity has been outstanding, we are very much keeping each other close and being suffocated with love, which is absolutely what we need. We also want people to remember Isobel for the magic girl she was."

Little Isobel Maxwell with mum Tamara and father Aaron

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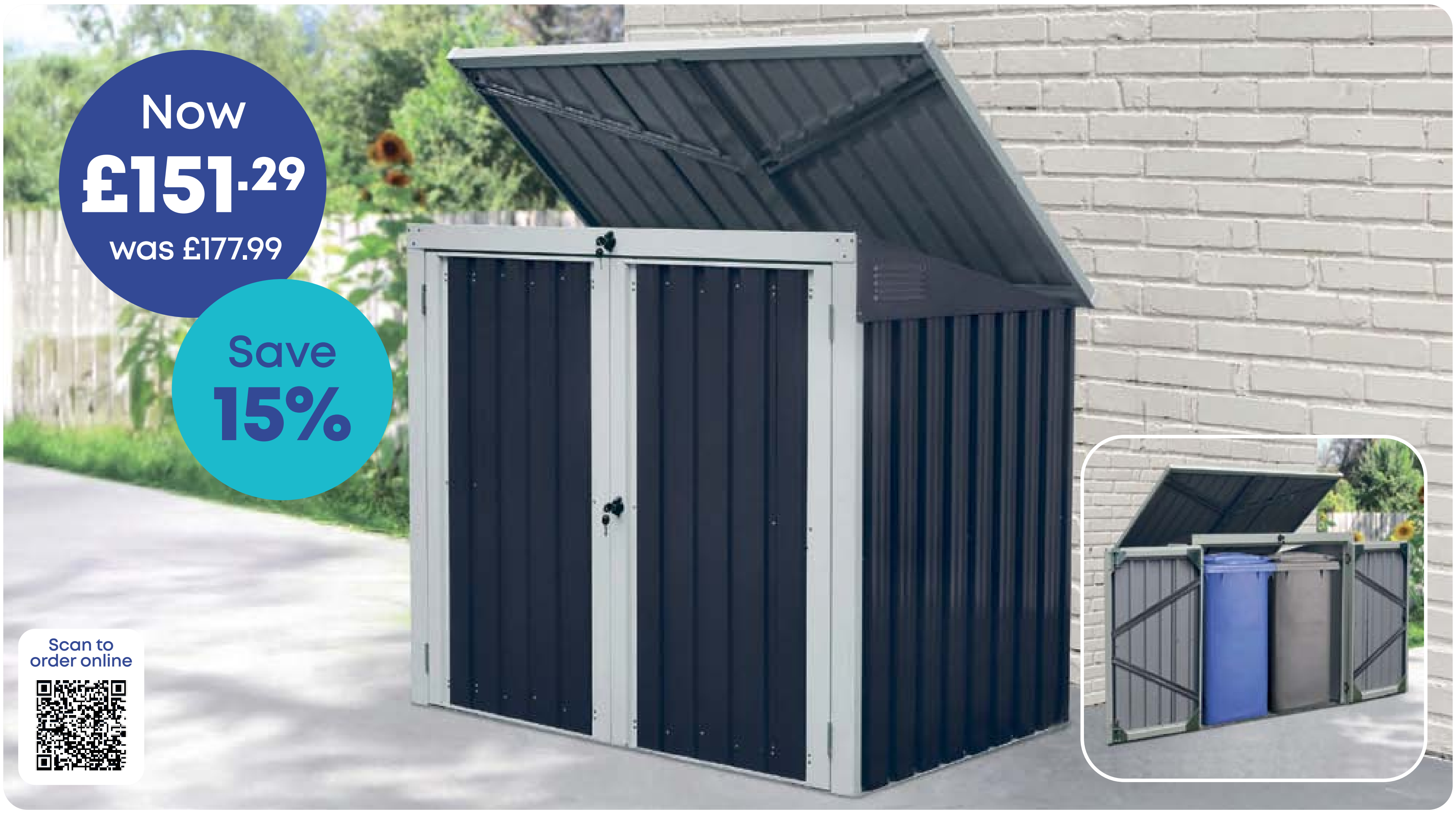

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Access is easy thanks to two front doors and a lift-up lid, while a connecting chain ensures both lids open together for convenience. Two locks (with four keys included) provide extra security, keeping your bins safe when you’re away. Inside, the shed is spacious enough to accommodate both general waste and recycling bins, helping you manage household rubbish efficiently without cluttering your outdoor space.

Strategically placed vents allow airflow, reducing odours and keeping the interior fresh. Its compact footprint makes it ideal for front gardens, patios, or small backyards, creating a tidy and discreet solution for bin storage. Functional, secure, and low-maintenance, this storage shed is the practical way to keep your rubbish bins out of sight, helping your home look clean, organised, and well-cared-for.

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- ✓ Made from corrugated steel with a weather-resistant coating
- ✓ Self-assembly required
- ✓ Dimensions: H135 x W100 x L158 cm

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'Agencies don't care about renting to the local people who keep the economy turning all year

Caitlin Port says hospitality work doesn't pay well

BY **FILIPA GASPAR**

YOUNG people in a historic Cornish fishing port fear they are stuck living with their parents, because the town is full of holiday lets and second homes.

Porthleven is a renowned foodie destination and surfing hotspot but a "chronic" lack of affordable homes to buy or rent means many locals are forced out.

Officials say around 25% of properties are now Airbnbs, holiday lets and second homes.

Young residents in the resort, which has a population of 3,000, say it has left the town "hollowed out" with the homes owned by outsiders empty out of season.

They also say that tougher rules on energy performance required for longer-term lets push landlords into short-term rentals.

Hiding

Sofia Lopes, 22, who works at The Welloe pub, lives with her parents in Porthleven in a council house they've owned for 25 years.

She said: "I have no right of tenancy over that house.

"With the job market this way, most of us work in hospitality, where the wages are not that high. I can't move out if I don't have a partner or a friend who is in the same position as me.

"We are finding that agencies don't care about renting to local people. There's no place for us to rent.

"They don't care about the local people who keep the economy turning the year round.

"We don't just go into hiding in the winter.

"We need somewhere to live and those holiday lets will just sit vacant through those months."

Holiday lets force out locals, says Sofia Lopes

MOUNTS BAY
HOLIDAYS

'During the winter I can see so many houses where the lights are off'

secretbolthole.co.uk

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Sofia's friends are in the same boat – working in hospitality and living with their parents. She said: "When you look online there's minimal houses or flats available.

"All of these houses are being turned into holiday lets."

Caitlin Port, 23, assistant manager of the Ship Inn, said: "I am quite lucky – I live with my boyfriend in a flat we are renting from his mum. However, a lot of people want to come to Cornwall in the summer for a seasonal job and there's nowhere to rent. When you work in hospitality you don't get paid a lot. If you want to live on your own all your wage is going towards rent.

"Most of my friends can't afford to move out of their parents' house. I want to stay in this village – I love living here. But the houses here are so expensive. It's difficult if you haven't got a partner or a good friend to live with and share the bills.

"Through the winter you don't get as many hours of work and you don't get as paid much.

"Trying to put money for a deposit down is impossible."

Caitlin and her boyfriend pay £700 a month for a one-bedroom flat. She added: "During the winter I see so many houses where the lights are off for months. People come here during the summer. And the locals get lumped with all the s*** houses that no one wants to buy as holiday lets."

They are not alone in their feelings. During an online discussion of the crisis, one former local posted: "We used to live in Cornwall but decided to leave as we couldn't afford a more suitable property." Another said: "I used to rent in Porthleven when I lived and worked nearby. So many empty so-called holiday cottages most of the year. Locals don't stand a chance."

A third added: "Cornwall needs more quality, decent paid, permanent employment opportunities, not part-time or seasonal work.

"Until that issue is tackled the same old debates about housing shortages and second home owners will just continue to surface!"

The town is growing – with a 70-home estate going up, with some of the properties earmarked for shared ownership or rental.

But mayor of Porthleven Mike Toy said: "Developers aren't going to build something they're not going to make a profit out of."

Losing

He added that in terms of new homes for local people there is nowhere left to build.

Mr Toy said of the holiday lets and second homes: "It has hollowing out the area – you're losing all the people you need to keep the community going.

"Holidaymakers are a thing here, whether you like it or not, but you still need local people in the background doing stuff."

Town councillor Rob Munday, who was born in Porthleven 49 years ago, has put his two stepkids, who are in the early 20s, on the waiting list.

He said: "There's no chance they'd be able to afford to move out. We're lucky but it's going to be really tough for my kids. People who are 20 or 21 are still living with their parents. Young people living here can't afford to buy here, or rent."

30-SECOND CHALLENGE

JUST follow the instructions from left to right, starting with the number given to reach an answer at the end of the row. Set your own 30-second challenge. For the very young or arithmetically rusty, you have 30 seconds for the BEGINNER task.

For a greater challenge, try BEGINNER and INTERMEDIATE in 30 seconds. True mental gymnasts should try INTERMEDIATE and ADVANCED in 30 seconds together.

Today's answers can be found in the puzzles pullout

										YOUR ANSWERS
Beginner	3	SQUARE IT	x8	-17	4/11 OF THIS	+49	÷3	-9	x4	
Intermediate	292	-139	÷17	SQUARE IT	+89	30% OF THIS	+265	3/4 OF THIS	-49	
Advanced	53	x9	+84	4/11 OF THIS	-68	INCREASE BY 75%	+187	5/17 OF THIS	TAKE THE CUBE ROOT	

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

MONDAY, JANUARY 12
SET FOR LIFE 9 20 29 41 47 4

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10
LOTTERY 5 6 13 18 22 53 9
THUNDERBALL 23 29 31 38 39 5

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9
EUROMILLIONS
1 7 10 26 34 2 4
THUNDERBALL
3 8 15 32 36 5

THE HEALTH LOTTERY

MONDAY, JANUARY 12
6 9 15 35 49 21

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11
1 2 10 14 34 44

The Health Lottery has raised more than £135m for health-related causes since 2011. Details at thehealthlotteryfoundation.org.uk

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PHONE POLL RESULTS

We asked in our poll on Saturday:

Should the UK adopt a Trump-style red list of countries that ban returns?

YES: 97%

NO: 3%

DO YOU HAVE A STORY OR A PHOTO?

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SUDOKU

Fill in all the squares so that each row, each column, and each 3x3 square contain all the digits from 1 to 9

		2		6		9		4
	5		9				1	
6				5	4	7		8
9			8				2	5
		1		7		4		9
4	6					3		
5		7	6		8		4	
	2				7		9	
3		6		2		8		1

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For today's solution call:
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For extra clues call:
09013 225 602
(Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge)
MORE PUZZLES – PULLOUT

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

8	1	9	5	4	7	3	6	2
6	7	5	9	2	3	4	1	8
2	3	4	8	1	6	7	5	9
9	2	6	4	3	1	5	8	7
5	4	1	6	7	8	9	2	3
3	8	7	2	5	9	6	4	1
1	5	2	3	9	4	8	7	6
7	6	3	1	8	5	2	9	4
4	9	8	7	6	2	1	3	5

The four tops from victorious finals including Argentina's 2022 World Cup win

Auction scramble for football star's shirts might get Messi

BY **DEAN MURRAY**

FOUR Lionel Messi shirts worn during cup final triumphs for Argentina are up for auction.

The one-lot sale by Budds Auctions unites jerseys from each of the forward's finest moments for his country and could go for around £120,000.

The shirts featured in the 2021 Copa America against Brazil, the 2022 Finalissima versus Italy, the 2022 World Cup victory over France, and the 2024 Copa America final against Colombia.

Budds Auctions said all four tops originate directly from the Argentina national team changing rooms and have been carefully sourced via a trusted official.

David Convery, of Budds Auctions, says: "We are honoured to be entrusted with selling this legendary and prized collection of Lionel Messi Argentina final shirts.

"This single owner auction will offer the opportunity to own a historic collection from one of the greatest players in football history."

The timed online auction runs until February 1.

Football legend Lionel Messi

The Crusader Fighting for your rights

By MAISHA FROST

We call time on missing phone saga

DELIVERY DELAYS: Paying the monthly bill helped to speed up a positive outcome

A DELIGHTED customer is back on track after delivery disconnects left him without his new phone purchase and no clue as to where it might be.

Although Sam Peters was pretty fed up with the no-show and the delays afterwards, he did continue to pay the monthly bill for his contract with operator iD Mobile, part of the Currys group.

This was to his advantage in the long run because it showed both good faith and, given the retailer had his details, helped keep matters more straightforward when a resolution was being addressed.

Even so, from Sam buying his iPhone and a two-year contract in late September, it still took more than two months to sort, although once Crusader highlighted the problem there was a very positive response, with Sam assisted quickly and fairly recompensed.

Couriers do alert customers when a package is due to be delivered and offer follow-up options which should in theory deal with any tight timings.

Sam got the message from DPD and knew he wouldn't be in for the delivery slot.

"I tried to request redelivery but the app would not allow me and iD Mobile were unable to help," he told Crusader.

His understanding from DPD was that the system had recorded the phone had been requested to be returned to Currys, but it could not be located.

Sam was advised to raise an investigation but after that heard no more until iD Mobile advised that, "I should wait to receive the phone then request a refund. But it's so difficult without a phone and I'm being charged £50 a month. I fear no end to this," Sam added.

But once Crusader set out the issue, and just before Christmas, Sam reported success.

He now has a newer model phone because the one he ordered was out of stock, plus a credit for the monthly payments already paid and a £60 goodwill gesture.

"I think I would be still phoneless without you," Sam told Crusader, while also thanking Currys and DPD for their help.

➤ Hitting the road does not end with Christmas and fake road tolls are out in force, primed to catch out motorists in 2026. National Trading Standards continues to warn drivers about the importance of only using official road toll sites, not crooked copycat ones charging over the odds.

Latest figures show some 17 per cent, who believed they'd paid for government services online, were duped and then fined for non-payment. Remember, that when applying for government services online, handling charges are not necessary if you pay the government body directly.

Check the honest road toll page at gov.uk/uk-toll-roads

If you want help with a problem or wish to applaud good service, we will do our best to help. We can't always promise a reply but please contact The Crusader, Daily Express, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5AP. Email: crusader@express.co.uk. Only send document copies, not originals. ALWAYS INCLUDE YOUR PHONE NUMBER, thank you.

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Sex, Drugs and Walking Sticks

by Dr Miriam Stoppard

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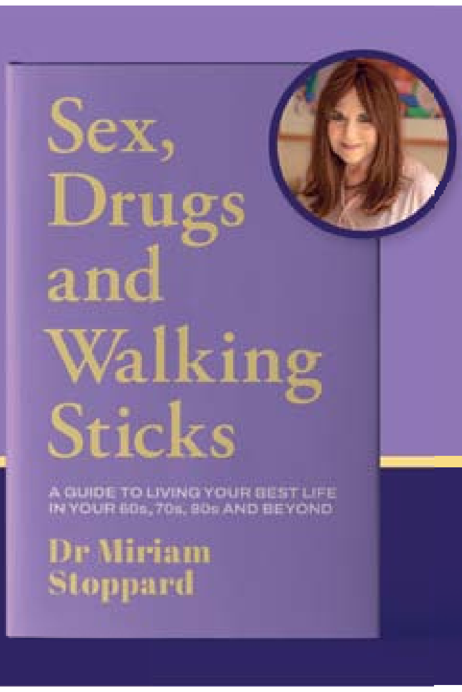
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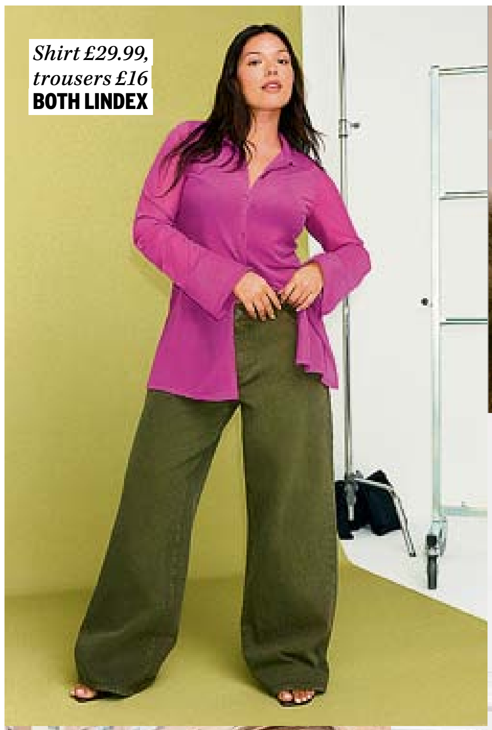
FASHION GET THE LOOK

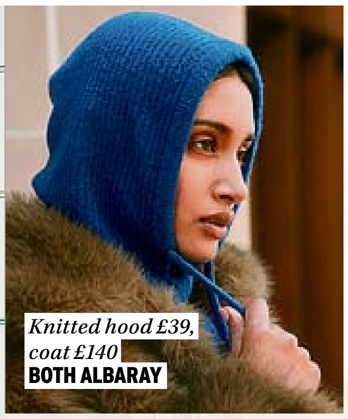
Compiled by **GRACE SALMON**

Brighten up

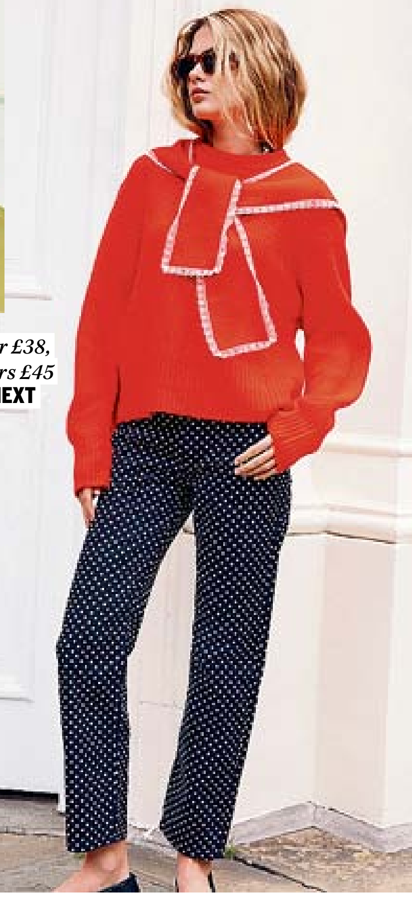
Inject more colour into your January wardrobe with these vibrant accessories and some dopamine-boosting knitwear



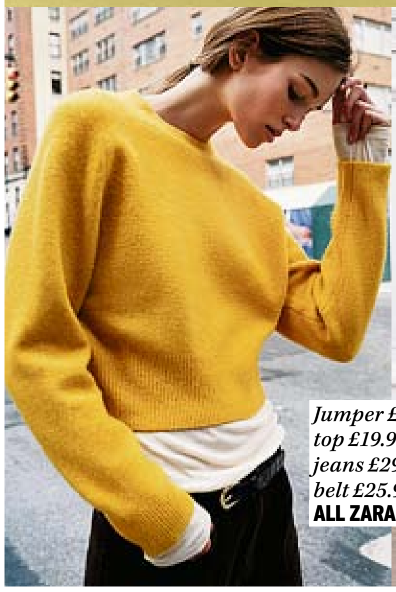
Shirt £29.99, trousers £16
BOTH LINDEX



Knitted hood £39, coat £140
BOTH ALBARAY



Jumper £38, trousers £45
BOTH NEXT



Jumper £32.99, top £19.99, jeans £29.99, belt £25.99
ALL ZARA

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Jumper (around shoulders) £85
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Loafers £119
ALL BODEN

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34 Pets
37 TV Guide
42 Horoscopes
46 Your Letters
PLUS Puzzles

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Helleborus Orientalis Mix brings winter colour to your garden. As the colder months stretch on, these hardy perennials awaken from late January and continue to bloom into May, offering saucer-shaped flowers in white, pink, green, purple, red or nearly black.

Glossy evergreen leaves frame each flower, adding richness and structure to borders, containers, slopes or under trees. Fully hardy to -20°C, they need no winter protection, resist deer and rabbits, and provide nectar for sleepy bees. Supplied in 3 x 9cm pots, they prefer moist, humus-rich soil in dappled shade and reach 30-50cm in height and spread.

Perfect for novice and experienced gardeners, they brighten winter with charm and resilience.

✓ Plant type: Perennial
✓ Flowering period: January - May
✓ Position: Part sun / part shade / full shade
✓ Height / Spread in maturity: 50cm/50cm
✓ Temperatures: Fully hardy down to -20°C
✓ Good for: Pots, containers, pollinators

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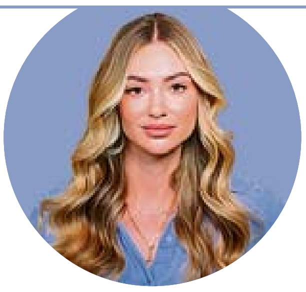

SHOPPING YOUR NEXT BUY

Edited by **ZOE CRIPPS**

MOST WANTED

DROWSY'S SILKY EYE MASKS

Loved by celebs like Vogue Williams and Trinny Woodall, a new burgundy colourway has now launched for January. The luxe mask, £69, is crafted from mulberry silk, bringing a touch of luxury to your sleep routine. Plus, with a 100% blackout design that makes it easier to sleep and silk fabric to help improve fine lines, wrinkles and dark circles, it'll be the smartest buy for your sleep you make this month. drowsysleepco.com

SPOTLIGHT ON... TRIED & TESTED REVIEW

MIRAFIT
MIRA FIT
MIRAFIT
MIRA FIT

MIRAFIT'S HOME GYM BUNDLE 2, £99.95

Shopping lead Zoe says: "If your New Year's resolutions include some fitness goals, I'm here to tell you that you don't need a pricey monthly gym membership to achieve them. Mirafit's Home Gym Bundle 2 requires minimal storage space, but still features everything you need for a top-to-toe bodyweight workout. The kit has seven products, including push-up bars, an aerobic step, core sliders and an adjustable speed skipping rope so that you can improve strength and fitness from your living room."

WHAT'S NEW THIS WEEK

Compiled by **GRACE SALMON**

Abstract borg, £28 **MATALAN**

Wavy edge trays (set of two), £20 **SOPHIE ROBINSON FOR DUNELM**

Stay
Bright

Stay Bright poster, from £7.95 **DESENIO**

Eclipse occasion chair, £297 **LIME LACE**

Bright green vase, £12 **HOMESENSE**

Bright stripe scarf, £38 **OLIVER BONAS**

Birthstone boxed earrings, £18.99 **JOMA JEWELLERY**

740 trainers in white and yellow, £100 **NEW BALANCE AT SCHUH**

Twist 650ml bottle in Sunset Purple, £29.99 **AIR UP**

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Forward Thinking journal, £9.99 **SUE RYDER**

TREND REPORT

Health and longevity MOTs are gaining popularity, with in-clinic body scans and genetic examinations poised to become more in-demand than ever in 2026. So if you want to take charge of your own health this year, here's how to do it with home health kits that don't cost a fortune.

ACCURATE TEST'S QUICK TURNAROUND

Numan Complete Blood Test, from £94

This simple-to-use home kit allows you to check for nutritional deficiencies, assess your metabolic health and determine the levels of good and bad cholesterol in your body, among other useful measurements – with results available in 3-5 days.

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food
intolerance
test
yorktest
essential health che

GREEN LIGHT FOR A HEALTHIER YOU

YorkTest Essential Health Check, £79

Using a simple finger-prick sample, it examines 18 key markers, including cholesterol and triglycerides, liver function, vitamin D, iron levels and B12. Results are given in an easy-to-understand traffic light system, with a supporting guide to help you make practical lifestyle changes.

TOP 5

THE BEST DEALS FOR DRY SKIN

If your hands are becoming dry and cracked due to the freezing cold January weather as well as frequent washing to keep harmful germs away, these five amazing creams are here to help…

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POMELO
& BASIL
HAND CREAM

OLIVER BONAS POMELO BASIL SCENTED HAND CREAM, *£9.50*

Perfectly sized for popping in your handbag, and deliciously scented with citrus and basil.

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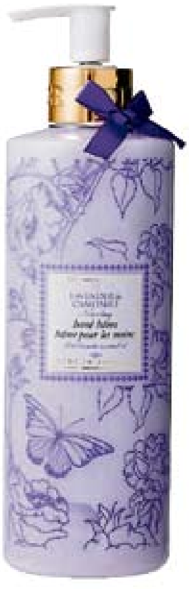
AFTER THE RAIN
LIME, ROSE & SANDALWOOD
hand cream

ARRAN SENSE OF SCOTLAND AFTER THE RAIN HAND CREAM, *£17.50*

A luxury tub of goodness for your hands, the formula is enriched with vitamin E, shea butter, and beeswax to soften and nourish.



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NEUTROGENA NORWEGIAN FORMULA HAND CREAM CONCENTRATED UNSCENTED, *£3.99*

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WITH SPF30
Protects against UVA+UVB

E45 UV PROTECT HAND CREAM, *£9.99*

UV rays can be harmful even in the winter, so protect the delicate skin on your hands with this nourishing buy.

PAMPERED PETS

Our vet **DAVID GRANT** *works his magic*

SPOOKED
Anxious cats hide away

Calming a scaredy cat

Q We rescued an adult cat a year ago that may have been badly treated as he only trusts us. You wrote recently about how to introduce a new cat to the household. Our problem is different – how to introduce visitors. If anyone comes to visit, the cat runs upstairs, hides and won't come down for hours. We are not sure what to do.

A This is a common problem and it is important to solve it. Although some people might think the cat has provided a solution for itself when visitors arrive, the reality is a very anxious cat hiding, and no doubt hearing, the source of its anxiety. In the long term this can't be good for your cat.

Part of solving the problem is an understanding of possible causes. Past bad treatment could be a possibility, as you suggest, and unfortunately in my career I have seen many such cats. Some were very aggressive when approached by people, especially men.

Cats that hide tend to have been poorly socialised as kittens, and have retained a fear of people, especially those that they don't know. The socialisation period, getting used to being handled gently and to trust people, is surprisingly short, from two weeks to seven weeks of age.

> *'Past bad treatment could be a possibility'*

Getting initial advice from a qualified feline behaviourist, preferably referred by your vet, is recommended.

Tailored behavioural programmes involve providing a safe space, regular quiet visitors who are primed to ignore the cat, feline pheromones, and treats to build up confidence.

Consistency, patience and support from the behaviourist are important.

Q One of my guinea pigs is two years old and was recently diagnosed with a bladder problem. He was straining to pee, and there were small spots of blood. My vet discovered crystals in the bladder through an ultrasound examination, and treatment has started. Is this a common problem and where is the best place to find out about guinea pig issues?

A This is cystitis, inflammation of the bladder, which is thought to be quite common in guinea pigs. But there are still some aspects of it that are poorly understood.

The crystals your vet was able to see with an ultrasound are likely calcium oxalate. Guinea pig diet is high in calcium and this is normally regulated by passing the excess in urine. If the urine becomes too concentrated, for various reasons, calcium crystals develop, irritating the bladder lining and causing inflammation.

Under certain circumstances, less well understood, the crystals may clump together and form bladder stones, known as uroliths. This is possibly due to high concentrations of protein in urine, due to cystitis. If uroliths cause a blockage emergency surgical treatment is necessary.

I used to treat these cases with antibiotics, but later research has shown that bacteria are not necessarily involved. Treatment, as your vet is suggesting, more often involves pain relief, avoidance of stress, identifying husbandry problems in the environment and encouraging more water intake.

The PDSA website (pdsa.org.uk) is informative. There's also a new site, Guinea Pig Welfare UK (guineapigwelfareuk.co.uk), which contains a great deal of updated guinea pig information for vets and owners, and a quarterly newsletter.

David Grant has been a vet for more than 50 years. Email questions to him at pamperedpets@express.co.uk. He cannot enter into individual correspondence.

CAT TREATS
MAKE YOUR OWN CAT TREATS
CAT TREATS
CAT TREATS

MAKE YOUR OWN CAT TREATS SET
£8.95, Rex London

FETCH STONEWARE PET STORAGE JAR
£9, Sophie Allport

FEEDING FRENZY

We've rounded up some of our favourite meal-time additions for your four-legged friends, whether it's cute personalised bowls or tasty treats to see them through January

Compiled by **FAITH RICHARDSON**

SLOW FEEDER PET BOWL INSERT
£12.95, Pup & Kit

CATIT PIXI CAT DRINKING FOUNTAIN WHITE
£30, Jollyes

3 ROLLS
COLLAGEN
CHICKEN ROLLS
Chewable collagen treats for dogs

COLLAGEN CHICKEN DOG TREATS
£2.29, Homesense

FELINE
HUNGRY

FELINE HUNGRY PET BOWL
£12.50, Oliver Bonas

PERSONALISED HELLEBORE LARGE PET BOWL
£39, Emma Bridgewater

WOOF CLUB TREAT BAG
£9.50, Oliver Bonas

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Day 2	**Pinhão, Portugal** ★WINE TASTING★ Watch terraced vineyards pass by on your way to Pinhão. This afternoon visit a historic quinta for a wine tasting **★INCLUDED EXCURSION×: Quinta Visit with Wine Tasting**
Day 3	**Castelo Rodrigo, Portugal** Enjoy a leisurely morning on board, before your visit to the walled village of Castelo Rodrigo this afternoon **★INCLUDED EXCURSION×: Tour of Castelo Rodrigo**
Day 4	**Salamanca, Portugal** Visit Salamanca, where you will enjoy a guided tour of the main sights and sample Spanish tapas with a Flamenco show at lunch **★INCLUDED EXCURSION×: Guided Tour of Salamanca** **★INCLUDED EXCURSION×: Lunch with a Flamenco Show**
Day 5	**Folgosa, Portugal** After a sailing morning, visit Mateus Palace and its gardens or explore the Douro Museum in Régua. Tonight, dine at Quinta da Pacheca **★INCLUDED EXCURSION×: Visit to Mateus Palace or Visit to the Douro Museum in Régua** **★INCLUDED EXCURSION×: Dinner at Quinta da Pacheca**
Day 6	**Lamego, Portugal** Explore Lamego and the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Remedies. After a sailing afternoon, enjoy a Portuguese folk music show on board **★INCLUDED EXCURSION×: Visit to Lamego**
Day 7	**Porto, Portugal** (overnight) ★WINE TASTING★ Return to Porto for a tour of the city, then, after lunch, visit one of the famous port wine cellars with tasting. This evening, enjoy the Chef's dinner on board **★INCLUDED EXCURSION×: Guided tour of Porto** **★INCLUDED EXCURSION×: Port wine cellar visit with tasting**
Day 8	**Porto, Portugal** Disembark and transfer to the airport for your flight home

Fares, itinerary and availability is based on 5th November 2026 departure

Pinhão, Portugal

Castelo Rodrigo, Portugal

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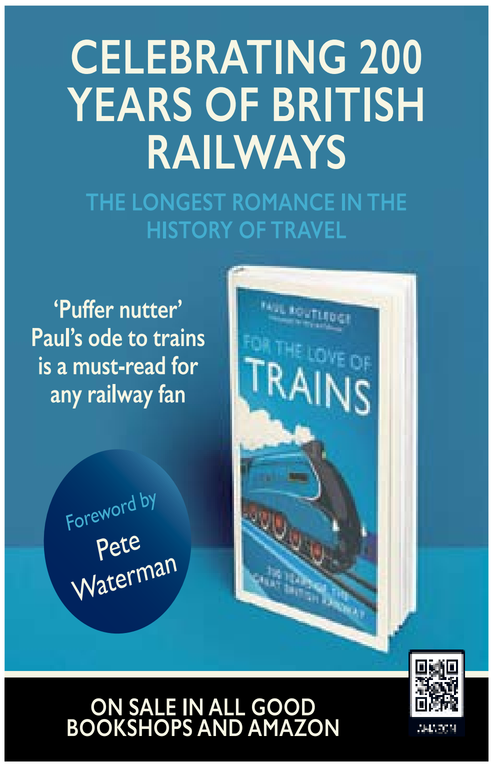
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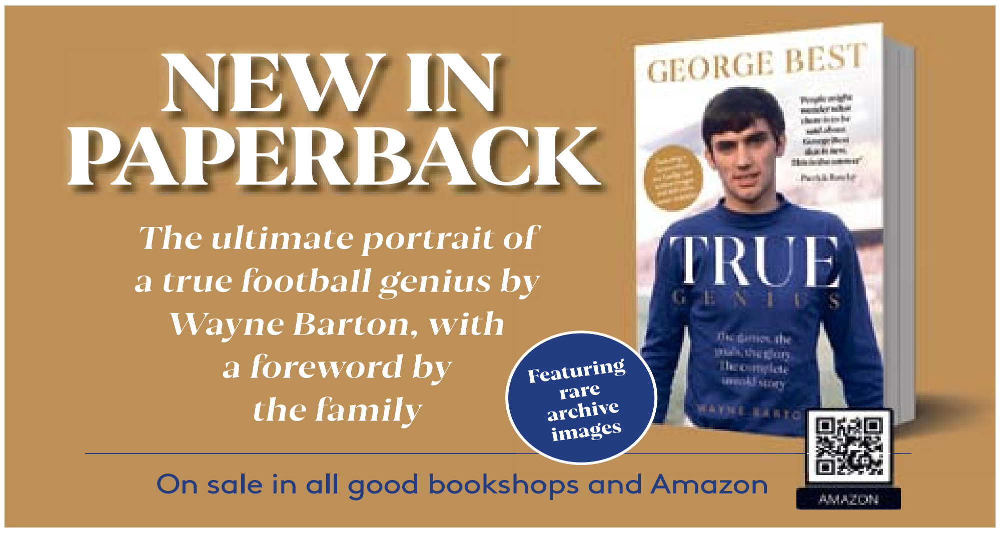
Foreword by Pete Waterman

PAUL ROUTLEDGE
FOR THE LOVE OF TRAINS

ON SALE IN ALL GOOD BOOKSHOPS AND AMAZON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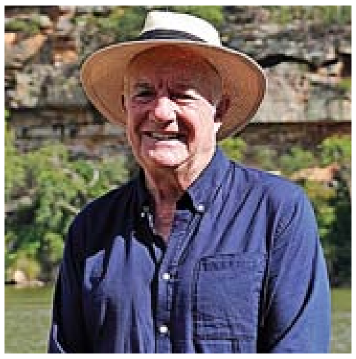
TODAY'S TV ONES TO WATCH

by **MIKE WARD** *TV critic*



RICK STEIN'S AUSTRALIA, BBC2, 7PM

I LOVE Rick to bits, but occasionally I wish he'd shock us just a little.

Once in a while, as he travels hither and thither on his journeys of culinary discovery, I wish he'd pop some local delicacy in his mouth, chew on it for a few seconds and pronounce it utterly disgusting. Or maybe he does, and they cut those bits out.

Anyway, this week he's exploring Sydney's northern fringes, learning how Australian food and the way it's sourced, cooked and eaten is influenced by "the great outdoors".

Personally, I much prefer eating in the great indoors, but I hear that it's a wee bit warmer over there.

GRAEME'S
DOGGIE
DATE NIGHT

DOGS BEHAVING (VERY) BADLY, 5, 8PM

TRAINER Graeme Hall meets Olive, a chihuahua who can be a tad anti-social on her walks. Pint-sized Olive's home photo shoots, he discovers, have made her a big star on social media, earning her more than 1.5 million views, which her owners seem jolly proud of, but take this little star out of the house for her daily exercise and she has an unfortunate tendency to go nuts at other dogs.

(I must admit I'm struggling to find any aspect of this case that remotely surprises me. Can I get back to you on that?)

Meanwhile, in his new medical advice feature, Graeme seeks help for a farty Frenchie.

Pick of the day

INSIDE THE FACTORY, BBC1, 8PM

CHIPS ARE DOWN
Paddy McGuinness and Cherry Healey

A-PEELING LOOK AT SPUDS WE LIKE

WOULD you like to know how oven chips are made? Oh, good. Had you said: "Couldn't care less", that would have meant Paddy McGuinness's trip to the McCain place near Scarborough, for this week's Inside The Factory, would have been a waste of time.

Mind you, it sounds as if he thinks it still might be. "It's not going to be a very long episode, is it?" he suggests to co-host Cherry Healey. "Potatoes. Chop 'em up. Done."

But I don't think he really believes it's that simple, do you? If he did, they'd have had the conversation before setting out.

"Shall we go to the McCain factory and see how oven chips are made?" Cherry would have said. And Paddy would have said: "No, Cherry, that's the stupidest idea I've ever heard. What on earth is wrong with you?"

As he (and we) soon learn, modern-day chip-making is actually quite technical. It uses lots of fancy gear at every stage. And there are lots of stages, starting with a special machine filtering out any potatoes that look a bit iffy.

In a single day, this McCain factory produces 80 million chips. Yes, honestly, 80 million; I have no reason to lie to you. If I wanted to lie to you, I'd have said 80 billion. (Having said that, 80 million does seem a suspiciously round figure; I wonder if they're just guessing.)

Sadly, Paddy is unable to meet the person who does all the peeling. That's because there isn't one. The potatoes are actually peeled by – you guessed it – a special machine. They bung the potatoes into this thing (they don't actually call it "bunging"), blast them with steam, and off pop their skins in seconds.

And the slicing? Electrical pulses soften the potatoes up so they're easier to cut. With a special machine? How did you guess?

Anyway, Britain apparently eats an "astonishing" 280,000 tonnes of frozen chips per year. But I've done a few sums and, if we take the population to be 69.5 million, and a regular chip to weigh 5g, then the number this suggests each of us eats per day is...three.

Yes, three chips each. It's possible, of course, that those sums of mine are rubbish.

But they shouldn't be. The machine I did them on is really special.

BEST FILM

SUPERBAD, BBC3, 10PM

Christopher Mintz-Plasse is uber-nerd McLovin in this comedic masterpiece about three teens losing their virginity. Also stars Jonah Hill.

BEST FOOD

WHAT NOT TO EAT, CHANNEL 4, 8PM

Tim Spector and Kandi Ejiofor explain why biscuits are so moreish and find out how many chemicals lurk in a slice of ultra-processed ham.

BEST TRAVEL

ROBSON GREEN'S WEEKEND ESCAPES, BBC2, 6.30PM

Actor Mark Benton joins Robson on a Scottish road trip in East Lothian. Robson takes Mark bird-watching and then on to a cookery school.

BEST SOAP

EASTENDERS, BBC1, 7.30PM

The police want to speak to Ravi after their chat with Priya. Max is shocked Bea thinks they are going on a date but keeps up the act for Linda.

TODAY'S PREVIEWS ARE ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE

FILM RATINGS

★★★★★ BRILLIANT
★★★★ VERY GOOD
★★★ GOOD
★★ AVERAGE
★ BAD

(R) REPEAT

ALL PROGRAMMES ARE LISTED IN GREENWICH MEAN TIME (GMT).

BBC One

6.00am Breakfast News headlines.
9.30 Morning Live Magazine.
10.45 Rip Off Britain The team investigate the energy company that refused to refund their customer.
11.30 Homes Under the Hammer Properties in Carmarthenshire, Sheffield and Lincolnshire. (R)
12.15pm Bargain Hunt (R)
1.00 BBC News at One; Weather
2.00 Lost and Found in the Lakes The team look for a daughter's treasured bracelet.
2.30 Animal Park The keepers must work fast to keep a baby porcupine safe.
3.00 I Escaped to the Country The stories of property buyers previously featured on Escape to the Country. Last in series.
3.45 Garden Rescue (R)
4.30 The Travelling Auctioneers Briony Harford and Robin Johnson help a couple raise money for retirement.
5.15 Pointless Quiz show, hosted by Alexander Armstrong.
6.00 BBC News at Six; Weather
6.30 Regional News; Weather

BBC Two

6.00am The Travelling Auctioneers (R)
6.45 Bargain Hunt (R)
7.30 Sign Zone: Weatherman Walking: The Welsh Coast Derek Brockway treks from Pwll to Kidwelly. (R)
8.00 Sign Zone: Robson Green's Weekend Escapes (R)
8.30 Sign Zone: See Hear Scott Garthwaite talks to footballer Jamie Clarke and YouTuber Jazzy Whipps.
9.00 BBC News The headlines.
12.15pm Politics Live The latest stories from Westminster.
1.00 *LIVE* **Snooker: The Masters** Kyren Wilson v Si Jiahui. Coverage of the fifth first-round match, held at Alexandra Palace in London.
5.15 Flog It! In Oxford. (R)
6.00 Richard Osman's House of Games With Lisa Snowdon, Hammed Animashaun, Adam Buxton and Lorna Watson.
6.30 Robson Green's Weekend Escapes Actor Mark Benton joins Robson on a Scottish road trip to East Lothian.

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain A lively mix of news, current affairs and lifestyle features.
9.30 Lorraine Entertainment and the latest fashion news.
10.00 This Morning Topical daily magazine, featuring a mix of celebrity chat, showbusiness news, advice and discussion. Including Local Weather.
12.30pm Loose Women Celebrity interviews and topical debate.
1.30 ITV News; Weather
1.55 Regional News; Weather
2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal David Dickinson and his team assess items at the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds.
3.00 Time Is Money Quiz where contestants are given their prize money upfront.
3.59 Regional Weather
4.00 Deal or No Deal Gameshow, hosted by Stephen Mulhern.
5.00 The Chase Bradley Walsh hosts as Sam from Margate, Terry from Leeds, Ben from Shropshire and Kate from Edenbridge work as a team.
6.00 Regional News; Weather

Channel 4

6.25am Cheers Triple bill. (R)
7.50 Everybody Loves Raymond Three episodes. (R)
9.10 Frasier Four episodes. (R)
11.10 American Pickers Mike Wolfe and Frank Fritz visit a jaw-dropping Kentucky property with a racetrack. (R)
12.05pm Channel 4 News
12.10 Car S.O.S Tim and Fuzz restore a 1990s Japanese super saloon. (R)
1.10 Find It, Fix It, Flog It Simon O'Brien and Henry Cole fix up a toilet cistern and a dressing room mirror. (R)
2.10 Countdown Mark Durden-Smith is in Dictionary Corner.
3.00 A Place in the Sun A woman seeks a holiday home in southern Abruzzo, Italy. (R)
4.00 A New Life in the Sun Construction on an open-air event space starts in Italy.
5.00 Junior Bake Off The second heat of bakers face the challenges of Biscuit Day.
6.00 A Place in the Sun Laura Hamilton helps a couple find a home in Orlando, Florida.

5

6.00am Milkshake! Children's TV.
9.15 Jeremy Vine The broadcaster discusses the issues of the day.
11.30 Storm & Alexis Discussion and debate, hosted by Storm Huntley and Alexis Conran.
12.45pm 5 News at Lunchtime
12.50 Matt Allwright Debate on the day's biggest stories.
2.00 Vanessa Discussion show, presented by Vanessa Feltz.
3.00 The Madame Blanc Mysteries Jean investigates when the body of a young woman is found on a cabin cruiser. Sally Lindsay stars. (R)
4.00 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun Lorrain and husband Toby host a Beetle drive to fund her feral cat rescue.
5.00 5 News at 5 A round-up of the day's headlines.
6.00 Secrets of the Royal Palaces Behind-the-scenes tales of Tudor residences, with architectural historian Jonathan Foyle tracing the story of Hampton Court Palace's creation. Last in series (R); 5 News Update

4.30pm, THE TRAVELLING AUCTIONEERS: Briony Harford

9pm, QI XL: Chris McCausland

7.30pm, EFL CUP LIVE: Nick Woltemade

8pm, WHAT NOT TO EAT: Dr Kandi Ejiofor

9pm, THE GOOD SHIP MURDER: Yuna Shin

7

8

9

10

11

12 MIDNIGHT

BBC One

7.00 The One Show With Roman Kemp and Lauren Laverne.
7.30 EastEnders The police continue their investigation into an attack. Meanwhile, Oscar and Lauren plan a memorial for Abi, and Penny is concerned for a friend.
8.00 Inside the Factory Paddy McGuinness and Cherry Healey visit the McCain factory near Scarborough that cuts, fries and freezes 80 million chips every single day. Ruth Goodman explores the origins of fish and chips.
9.00 Waterloo Road Donte falls victim to Izzy's rage when her emotions boil over, whilst Nicky returns to take on a new challenge as behavioural lead. Schuey encourages Agnes to confront her past. Adam Thomas and Kym Marsh star.
10.00 BBC News at Ten
10.30 Regional News; Weather
10.40 Waterloo Road Shola notices a change in Portia and suspects she has a new crush. A surprise Ofsted inspection sees Darius bend the rules to keep ahead of the inspectors.
11.40 *FILM* **28 Days Later** (2002, 18) A man wakes from a coma to discover Britain has been struck by a terrifying experimental virus that sends victims into a homicidal rage. Accompanied by a handful of other survivors, he heads for Manchester, the last outpost unaffected by the outbreak – but realises the virus is not the only threat. Danny Boyle's horror, starring Cillian Murphy and Naomie Harris. ★★★★
1.25am Weather for the Week Ahead **1.30-6.00am** BBC News

BBC Two

7.00 Rick Stein's Australia Rick heads north out of Sydney and explores the Central Coast on the city's fringe. Here, he finds out how Australia's outdoors influences how people live, eat and cook, meeting chefs, foragers and producers.
8.00 A House Through Time: Two Cities at War In Berlin, an SS officer arrives in the building, and another resident sees the Nazis arrest her new husband. War throws the lives of two London residents into turmoil. (R)
9.00 QI XL Chris McCausland, Zoe Lyons, Ed Byrne and Alan Davies join Sandi Toksvig for a wet and windy edition of the comedy panel gameshow – in which points are awarded for the most interesting answers.
9.45 Live at the Apollo Desiree Burch introduces fellow comedians Suzi Ruffell and Finlay Christie to perform their comedy sets on London's Hammersmith Apollo stage.
10.30 Newsnight Analysis of the day's events, with Victoria Derbyshire; Weather
11.00 *FILM* **The Duke** (2020, 12) In 1961, Kempton Bunton, a 60-year-old taxi driver, steals Goya's portrait of the Duke of Wellington from the National Gallery in London. Comedy drama, starring Jim Broadbent and Helen Mirren. ★★★★
12.30am Snooker: The Masters – Extra. Extended highlights of a match from day two. **2.30** Sign Zone: See Hear (R) **3.00** Sign Zone: What We Do in the Shadows (R) **3.25** Sign Zone: The Traitors (R) **4.30** Sign Zone: Amanda & Alan's Greek Job (R) **5.00-6.00am** This Is BBC Two

ITV1

6.30 ITV Evening News A round-up of the day's news headlines and talking points; Weather
7.30 *LIVE* **EFL Cup** Newcastle United v Manchester City (kick-off 8.00pm). Coverage of the opening semi-final first-leg tie, held at St James' Park. Lewis Miley struck in second-half stoppage time to help holders Newcastle claim a 2-1 victory over Fulham here in the quarter-finals, while the Citizens were comfortable 2-0 winners over Brentford. The sides have already met at this ground in the Premier League this term, with a brace from Harvey Barnes giving the Magpies a 2-1 home win. However, City have a great record in this competition in recent times, with six of their eight triumphs coming between 2014 and 2021.
10.25 ITV News A fresh perspective on the major news stories of the day, featuring national and international news, with reports and analysis from ITV's correspondents; Weather
10.55 Regional News A round-up of the headlines; Weather
11.10 The Assembly Footballer-turned-presenter Gary Lineker faces autistic and learning-disabled interviewers. (R)
11.40 Millionaire Hot Seat Jeremy Clarkson hosts the quiz in which six hopefuls compete for £1,000,000. (R)
12.10am Shop on TV (R) **3.00** Riches. Alesha, Gus and Wanda finally get Stephen's safe open, though Alesha is baffled by what she finds. Nina confronts Oyin about her revelation in Zurich. Last in series. (R) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05-6.00am** Deal or No Deal. Gameshow, with Stephen Mulhern. (R)

Channel 4

7.00 Channel 4 News A round-up of all the latest headlines, in-depth interviews and analysis of political developments and current affairs. Plus, the day's leading sports stories and up-to-the-minute weather reports.
8.00 What Not to Eat Tim Spector and Kandi Ejiofor reveal the science behind why biscuits are so moreish. They also help Nick and Sarah from Cambridgeshire to ditch their sausage rolls and boxed wine in favour of fermented foods.
9.00 24 Hours in Police Custody: The Secret Network A deep dive into Bedfordshire Police's covert investigation into the individuals using the encrypted phone network EncroChat to organise criminal operations.
10.00 Social Media Monsters A look into the investigation Essex police carried out on Jay Lang, a serial paedophile who was posing as a teenage girl on social media to share intimate pictures with young boys and blackmail them.
11.00 Catching a Killer: Buried Truths The murder of Cumali Turhan, who was lured into a Chelmsford bar by a love rival in November 2024, where he was killed by a knife stab to the neck, before his body was thrown out with the rubbish. (R)
12.15am Working Holidays: Stranded in Paradise – Untold **1.00** Taskmaster's New Year Treat. Part two of two. (R) **1.55** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R) **2.45** Know Your S**t: Inside Our Guts (R) **3.40** Sunday Brunch Best Bits (R) **3.55-4.50** Couples Come Dine with Me. In East Anglia. (R)

5

7.00 All-Inclusive Holidays: How to Get Your Money's Worth Consumer expert Alexis Conran investigates all-inclusive holidays and asks whether they are genuinely good value for money (R); 5 News Update
8.00 Dogs Behaving (Very) Badly A saint bernard causes chaos in Sunderland, climbing the walls and turning walks into a battle of wills between him and owner Cody. Plus, social media star chihuahua Olive keeps having outbursts.
9.00 The Good Ship Murder A renowned wellness guru comes on board to promote a new beauty treatment. During his presentation, his colleague is murdered. Crime drama, starring Shayne Ward and Catherine Tyldesley.
10.00 Street Cops: Catching the Yobs Following Britain's police as they head out to clean up the streets, from chasing down illegal e-scooters, and tackling drunks, to cutting brazen drug dealers down to size. (R)
11.05 Fare Dodgers: At War with the Law Transport for London investigators Rich and Greg are on the trail of a man they believe has run up more than £1500 in unpaid fares in east London on the Elizabeth Line. (R)
12.05am Call the Bailiffs: Time to Pay Up (R) **1.00** PlayOJO Live Casino **3.00** World's Most Scenic Railway Journeys (R) **3.50** Susan Calman's Grand Week by the Sea (R) **4.35** The Wonderful World of Chocolate (R) **5.25** Entertainment News **5.35-5.45am** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom (R)

ITV2 FREEVIEW 6

6.00am CITV **7.30** Celebrity Dinner Date **8.30** Olivia Meets Her Match **9.25** The Only Way Is Essex **10.25** The Real Housewives of Miami **11.20** The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills **12.15pm** Dinner Date **1.15** Celebrity Dinner Date **2.15** The Only Way Is Essex **3.15** The Real Housewives of Orange County **4.10** The Real Housewives of Miami **5.00** The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills

6.00 Celebrity Catchphrase

7.00 Deal or No Deal Gameshow.

8.00 The Real Housewives of Orange County Shannon breaks down.

9.00 Love Island: All Stars Reality series.

10.05 NEW **Grosse Pointe Garden Society** US mystery crime drama series set amidst a suburban garden club.

11.05 Family Guy Double bill.

12.05am American Dad! **1.05** Bob's Burgers **1.35** Olivia Attwood's Bad Boyfriends **2.30** Unwind with ITV **3.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

U&Dave FREEVIEW 19

6.00am Teleshopping **7.10** James May's Man Lab **8.00** Border Force: America's Gatekeepers **10.00** Guy Martin's Great British Power Trip **11.00** Rick Stein's Mediterranean Escapes **12.00noon** Bangers & Cash **2.00** Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge **3.00** Top Gear **5.00** Hairy Bikers' Best of British

6.00 Rick Stein's Mediterranean Escapes Seafood dishes in Majorca.

7.00 Would I Lie to You? With Greg Rutherford, Kirsty Young, Joanna Scanlan and Henning Wehn.

7.40 Richard Osman's House of Games Double bill of the general knowledge quiz.

9.00 Have I Got a Bit More News for You

10.00 QI XL Cally Beaton, Nish Kumar and Laura Smyth join regular panellist Alan Davies on the comedy quiz.

11.00 Taskmaster Hosted by Greg Davies.

12.00m't Mock the Week **12.40** Would I Lie to You? **2.00** Not Going Out **4.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

E4 FREEVIEW 13

6.00am Hollyoaks **6.55** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **7.00** Junior Bake Off **8.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **9.00** The Goldbergs **10.00** Modern Family **11.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **1.00pm** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.00** The Simpsons **3.00** The Goldbergs **4.00** Modern Family **5.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine

6.00 The Simpsons Double bill.

7.00 Hollyoaks Sienna's attempts to build bridges with Cleo backfire.

7.30 The Simpsons Marge becomes a sex symbol after posing for a calendar.

8.00 First Dates A 19-year-old man goes on the first date of his life, making a series of disastrous blunders.

9.00 Gogglebox Double bill.

11.05 Open House: The Great Sex Experiment Couple Caius and Eli want help in organising their first threesome.

12.05am Naked Attraction **1.15** First Dates **2.15** Gogglebox **4.05** The Goldbergs **4.50-6.00am** Don't Tell the Bride

ITVQuiz FREEVIEW 28

9.00am Deal or No Deal **10.00** Tipping Point **1.00pm** Lingo **2.00** Tenable **3.00** In with a Shout **4.00** Riddiculous **5.00** Deal or No Deal. Hosted by Stephen Mulhern.

6.00 Lingo Triple bill. Facing off today are sisters Denice and Lisa-Marie, mates Kai and Dan, plus Maxi with her grandson Dan; brothers Laurence and Ben from Hampshire, friends Karen and Helene from Scotland, and workmates Oliver and Franklyn from Huddersfield compete; Rebecca and Rachel, Kaz and Rich, and Deb and Emily take part in the quiz.

9.00 Alan Carr's Epic Gameshow The comedian continues his run of classic quiz revivals with an updated version of Play Your Cards Right, with four couples playing for the chance to win £30,000.

10.00 Tipping Point Double bill. Ben Shephard hosts the quiz show.

12.00m't Tipping Point **12.55** Tenable. Five friends take part. **1.50** Unwind with ITV **2.00-9.00am** Teleshopping

U&Drama FREEVIEW 20

6.00am Teleshopping **7.20** The Bill **8.15** Doctors **9.25** Classic Holby City **10.30** Classic Casualty **11.40** The Bill **12.40pm** Classic EastEnders **2.00** All Creatures Great and Small **3.00** Howards' Way **4.10** Bergerac **5.20** One Foot in the Grave

6.00 To the Manor Born Audrey learns the art of housekeeping. Penelope Keith stars.

6.40 Last of the Summer Wine Double bill.

8.00 NEW **Harry Wild** The lead singer of a band falls off a roof in an apparent suicide, but Harry's granddaughter Lola is certain it was murder. Jane Seymour stars.

9.00 Whitstable Pearl An investigation into a retired policeman's death proves highly complicated. Starring Kerry Godliman.

10.00 New Tricks Brian believes his days with Ucos are numbered.

11.20 Waking the Dead Part one of two. A family unearths a body in their garden.

12.40am Hotel Portofino **1.50** One Foot in the Grave **2.25** The Brokenwood Mysteries **4.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

More4 FREEVIEW 18

8.55am Find It, Fix It, Flog It **10.00** A Place in the Sun **11.30** Come Dine with Me **2.10pm** Four in a Bed **4.50** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away **5.55** Car S.O.S. Tim and Fuzz restore a 1953 Riley RMF.

6.55 Car S.O.S Double bill. Breathing new life into a 1973 Porsche 911 Targa; Tim and Fuzz restore a Toyota Celica.

9.00 NEW **Saving Country Houses with Penelope Keith** Insight into the work that goes into maintaining stately homes and gardens. In the Cotswolds, young couple James and Emma recently inherited Chavenage House and have bold plans to turn the estate into a glamping and sauna destination.

10.00 24 Hours in A&E Double bill. Three boys are admitted for very different reasons; a man is treated after falling off a ladder while fixing his roof.

12.10am Saving Country Houses with Penelope Keith **1.15** 24 Hours in A&E **3.25-3.55am** Food Unwrapped

BBC3 FREEVIEW 23

7.00pm The Catch Up News update.

7.05 SpongeBob SquarePants

7.30 Top Gear An epic road trip along America's east coast.

8.35 Top Gear Vietnam Special Festive edition from 2008 in which Jeremy Clarkson, James May and Richard Hammond take a road trip in Vietnam, travelling the length of the country in just eight days.

9.50 The Film Fan's Guide to Durham Iconic film locations.

10.00 FILM **Superbad** (2007, 15) Two teenagers hope to lose their virginity at a party – but to get into the bash they must take booze. Comedy, with Jonah Hill and Michael Cera. ★★★★

11.50 FILM **Gringo** (2018, 15) Action comedy, starring David Oyelowo and Charlize Theron. ★★★★

1.30am The Beauty Queen & the Catfish: triple bill **3.45-4.00am** The Film Fan's Guide to Durham

BBC4 FREEVIEW 9

7.00pm LIVE **Snooker: The Masters** John Higgins v Barry Hawkins. Seema Jaswal presents coverage of the sixth first-round match, held at Alexandra Palace in London.

10.00 The Last Battle of the Vikings Dr Jon Henderson tells the story of the Norsemen in Scotland, visiting archaeological sites across Scotland and Norway. He reveals that, although the battle at Largs with the Scottish army in 1263 marked the end of an era for the Norsemen, their presence continued to shape the Scottish nation to the present day.

11.00 The Hunt for Lady Olive and the German Submarine

12.00m't The History of Pubs – Timeshift **12.40** The Witness is a Whale. A look at whale populations. **1.30** The Last Battle of the Vikings **2.30-3.30am** The Search for the Lost Manuscript: Julian of Norwich

GB News FREEVIEW 236

6.00am Breakfast with Eamonn and Ellie **9.30** Britain's Newsroom **12.00noon** Good Afternoon Britain **3.00** Martin Daubney. Updates.

6.00 Dewbs & Co Plain-speaking, straight-talking – Michelle Dewberry delivers her take on the day's news.

7.00 Farage An action-packed hour of topical discussion and debate.

8.00 Jacob Rees-Mogg's State Of The Nation Join Jacob for his unique and unmissable take on the news.

9.00 Patrick Christys Tonight Replay Two hours of spirited debate and news making interviews. Top guests tackle the issues that matter, with a sharp take on every story.

11.00 Patrick Christys Tonight Late Edition Discussing the headlines.

12.00m't The Late Show Live **2.00** Farage Replay **3.00** Patrick Christys Tonight Replay **5.00-6.00am** Patrick Christys Tonight Late Edition

Variations & S4C

WALES As BBC1 except: 1.35-1.45pm BBC Wales Today; Weather **6.30-7.00** BBC Wales Today; Weather **10.30-10.40pm** BBC Wales Today. Latest news and headlines; Weather

WALES As BBC2 except: 11.00pm First Minister's Questions **12.00m't-12.30am** The Wonder of Animals. How big cats hunt.

MERIDIAN As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Meridian; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News Meridian; Weather **10.55-11.10pm** ITV News Meridian. Latest news and headlines; Weather

CENTRAL As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Central; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News Central; Weather **10.55-11.10pm** ITV News Central. Latest news and headlines; Weather

ITV WALES As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Cymru Wales; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News Cymru Wales; Weather **10.55** ITV News Cymru Wales; Weather **11.10pm-12.10am** Sharp End. The latest developments in politics.

WEST As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News West Country; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News West Country; Weather **10.55-11.10pm** ITV News West Country. Latest headlines; Weather

ANGLIA As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News Anglia; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News Anglia; Weather **10.55-11.10pm** ITV News Anglia. Latest news and headlines; Weather

WESTCOUNTRY As ITV1 except: 1.55-2.00pm ITV News West Country; Weather **6.00-6.30** ITV News West Country; Weather **10.55-11.10pm** ITV News West Country. The latest news and headlines; Weather

S4C 6.00am Cyw **12.00noon** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **12.05pm** Gwladfa: Gwilym Bowen Rhys **12.30** Heno **1.00** Welsh Whisperer – Ni'n Teithio Nawr! **1.30** Ffermio **2.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **3.05** 6 Gwlad Shane ac Ieuan **4.00** Awr Fawr **5.00** Stwnsh **6.00** Cysgu O Gwmpas **6.30** Sgorio **6.57** Newyddion S4C **7.00** Heno **7.30** Newyddion **8.00** Pobol y Cwm. Gaynor receives further disturbing news about Cheryl's death. **8.25** Rownd a Rownd **8.55** Newyddion S4C **9.00** Y Cyfweliad. Bronwen Lewis is interviewed by individuals with additional learning needs. **9.35** Cymru ar Gyffuriau **10.00** Con Jones: Twyllwr Gorau'r Byd **11.00pm-12.05am** Y Fets

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Sport

SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT

6.00am LIVE **Tennis** The WTA and ATP Tours.
12.00noon Transfer Talk. The latest transfer news. **1.00** Lunchtime Live **2.00** Sports Desk
3.30 LIVE **SA20** Paarl Royals v Durban's Super Giants. Coverage of the match at Boland Park.
7.00 LIVE **EFL Cup** Newcastle United v Manchester City (kick-off 8.00pm). The opening semi-final first-leg tie, held at St James' Park.
10.45 Back Pages Tonight **11.00** Sky Sports News
12.00m't LIVE **TGL** Jupiter Links Golf Club v New York Golf Club. The fourth match of the team competition, held at SoFi Center in Florida.
2.00-6.00am LIVE **Tennis** The WTA and ATP Tours, including the ATP Adelaide Open, ATP Auckland Open, WTA Adelaide Open, and WTA Hobart Open.

SKY SPORTS CRICKET

6.00am Big Bash League **7.00** Best of J Anderson: 500th Wicket **7.10** Big Bash League
8.10 LIVE **Big Bash League** Melbourne Stars v Adelaide Strikers. At Melbourne Cricket Ground.
11.30 Best of England v South Africa **11.45** Best of ICC WT20 **12.00noon** SA20 **2.00** Big Bash League **3.00** Best of J Anderson: 500th Wicket. From 2017. **3.10** Best of Sky Cricket
3.20 LIVE **SA20** Paarl Royals v Durban's Super Giants. Coverage of the match at Boland Park.
7.00 Big Bash League **8.00** WPL **9.00** SA20 **10.00** Big Bash League **11.00** Big Bash League
2.20am Best of J Anderson: 500th Wicket **2.30** Best of England v South Africa **2.45** Best of ICC WT20 **3.00** Big Bash League **4.00-6.00am** SA20

SKY SPORTS FOOTBALL

6.00am EFL Cup Retro **8.00** SPFL **8.30** Best Scottish Premiership Goals 2021/22 **9.00** EFL Greatest Games **10.00** Championship Season Review **11.00** EFL Rivalries **11.30** Jimmy Glass: The Great Escape **12.00noon** SPFL Round-Up **12.15** SPFL Highlights **12.30** Bundesliga Highlights Show **1.30** EFL League One Goals **2.00** EFL League Two Goals **2.30** WSL **3.00** SPFL Round-Up **3.15** SPFL Highlights **3.45** EFL Highlights **4.15** Bundesliga Highlights Show **5.15** SPFL Round-Up **5.30** WSL
6.00 EFL Cup Highlights: two episodes
7.00 LIVE **EFL Cup** Newcastle United v Manchester City (kick-off 8.00pm).
10.45 SPFL Round-Up. A round-up of the goals. **11.00** SPFL Highlights **11.30** EFL Greatest Games **12.00m't** EFL Cup Highlights **12.30** EFL Cup Retro **2.30** SPFL Special: Celtic's Invincibles **3.30** EFL Greatest Games **4.00** EFL Cup Highlights **5.00-6.00am** SPFL

SKY SPORTS GOLF

6.00am PGA Tour Golf **12.30pm** DP World Tour Golf **5.30** PGA Tour Golf **8.30** Beyond the Scorecard **9.00** You Can Play Golf **9.30** Rory's 2025 **11.00** The Open – Official Films
12.00m't LIVE **TGL** Jupiter Links Golf Club v New York Golf Club. Coverage of the fourth match of the team competition, held at SoFi Center.
2.00 Mark Roe's Short Game School **2.30** The Golf Fitness Show **3.00** Nick Dougherty's Tee Time Tips **4.00** AIG Women's Open Official Film 2025 **5.00-6.00am** The Open – Official Films

TNT SPORTS 1

8.15am The Edge **9.15** One Day International Cricket **10.15** What I Wore **10.45** Reframe the Game **11.00** Snooker Masters
1.00pm LIVE **Snooker Masters** Kyren Wilson v Si Jiahui. Coverage of the fifth first-round match, held at Alexandra Palace in London.
4.30 LIVE **Women's Alpine Skiing World Cup** Coverage of run one of the slalom in the latest round of the season from Flachau, Austria.
6.15 Isuzu UTE A-League Highlights. Action from the 12th round. **6.45** TNT Sports Cricket Reload
7.00 LIVE **Snooker Masters** John Higgins v Barry Hawkins. Coverage of the sixth first-round match, held at Alexandra Palace in London.
10.30 What I Wore. The best conversations from the show. **11.00** TNT Sports Cricket Reload
11.30 LIVE **T20 Super Smash** Auckland Aces v Canterbury Kings. Coverage of the match at Eden Park Outer Oval in Auckland, New Zealand.
3.00am Women's Alpine Skiing World Cup **4.00** UFC Fight Flashback **5.00-6.00am** UEFA Champions League – Classics

TNT SPORTS 2

6.00am The Emirates FA Cup **7.00** Isuzu UTE A-League Highlights **7.30** Ninja A-League Women Highlights. Action from the 11th round.
8.00 LIVE **A-League Women** Sydney FC v Newcastle Jets (kick-off 8.00am).
10.00 Serie A **12.00noon** Sign Up – Into Football **12.45** Original Documentary
1.00 LIVE **Snooker Masters** Kyren Wilson v Si Jiahui. Coverage of the fifth first-round match, held at Alexandra Palace in London.
4.30 The Emirates FA Cup **5.30** One Day International Cricket **6.30** The Breakdown
7.00 LIVE **Snooker Masters** John Higgins v Barry Hawkins. Coverage of the sixth first-round match, held at Alexandra Palace in London.
10.30 TNT Sports Cricket Reload **10.45** TNT Sports Cricket Reload **11.00** UFC Fight Flashback **11.30** What I Wore
12.00m't Isuzu UTE A-League **1.00** Isuzu UTE A-League **2.00** Isuzu UTE A-League **3.00** Isuzu UTE A-League **4.00** Isuzu UTE A-League **5.00-6.00am** Isuzu UTE A-League

Entertainment & Factual

ITV3 Freeview 10

6.00am Never the Twain **6.30** On the Buses **7.05** Classic Emmerdale **8.10** Classic Coronation Street **9.10** Inspector Morse **11.20** Heartbeat **1.20pm** Foyle's War **3.30** Classic Emmerdale **4.40** Classic Coronation Street **5.50** Heartbeat **8.00** Vera **10.00** Foyle's War **11.55** Trial & Retribution **2.05-2.30am** Unwind with ITV

ITV4 Freeview 26

6.00am The Big Match Revisited **8.05** Magnum, PI **9.10** Kojak **10.15** Boon **11.25** The Professionals **12.25pm** Robin of Sherwood **1.40** Magnum, PI **2.40** Kojak **3.45** Boon **4.50** The Professionals **5.55** Minder **7.00** American Pickers **8.00** The Motorbike Show **9.00** Ice Road Truckers **10.00** All Elite Wrestling: Collision **12.00m't** Dark Side of the Ring **1.00** Auf Wiedersehen, Pet **1.55** Minder **2.50** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30-4.00am** Auto Mundial

5STAR Freeview 32

8.00am Amazing Cleans **10.00** 22 Kids & Counting **11.00** Traffic Cops **2.00pm** Police Interceptors **5.00** Call the Bailiffs: Time to Pay Up **6.00** Home and Away **7.00** GPs: Behind Closed Doors **8.00** Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts **9.00** Fare Dodgers: At War with the Law **10.00** 999: Critical Condition. A woman's heart stops. **11.00** Skin A&E **12.00m't** 999: Killer on the Line **1.00** GPs: Behind Closed Doors **2.00** Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts **2.45** Skin A&E **3.35-4.00am** Car Pound Cops

REALLY Freeview 44

6.00am Fantasy Homes by the Sea **7.00** Cruise TV with LoveitBookit **8.00** Escape to the Country **9.00** Salvage Hunters **12.00noon** Antiques Road Trip **2.00** The Repair Shop **3.00** Celebrity Yorkshire Auction House **4.00** Long Lost Family **5.00** A Place in the Sun **6.00** Salvage Hunters **9.00** Long Lost Family. Two men searching for family and the truth about their beginnings. **10.00** Long Lost Family: What Happened Next **11.00** Celebrity Help! My House Is Haunted **2.00am** Teleshopping **4.00-6.00am** Salvage Hunters

5ACTION Freeview 33

9.00am Traffic Cops **10.00** Police Interceptors **12.00noon** FILM The Last Hunt (1956/PG) ★★★★ **2.05** FILM The Last Challenge (1967/PG) ★★★ **4.00** The Motorway **5.00** Traffic Cops **6.00** Police Interceptors **8.00** Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders **10.00** Police: Suspect No 1 **11.00** Banged Up Abroad **12.00m't** World's Deadliest Weather: Caught on Camera **1.00** Ice Road Truckers **2.00** Trucking Hell **3.55-4.00am** Entertainment News on 5

SKY ARTS Freeview 36

6.00am Cirque du Soleil: Corteo **8.00** The Joy of Painting **9.00** Tales of the Unexpected **10.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.00** The Directors **12.00noon** Discovering: Hugh Grant **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Stories from Tate Britain **3.00** Wordsworth & Coleridge Road Trip with Frank Skinner and Denise Mina **4.00** The Directors **5.00** Discovering: Leonardo DiCaprio **6.00** Tales of the Unexpected **7.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents. Comedy crime drama anthology. **8.00** The World in a Painting: Vermeer's Hat **9.15** Peter O'Toole: Along the Sky Road to Aqaba **11.15** Angelheaded Hipster: The Songs of Marc Bolan & T. Rex **1.05am** 50 Years on Film: David Hockney **2.00** NEW Landscape Artist of the Year 2026. Stephen Mangan hosts. **3.00** Landscape Artist of the Year National Trust Favourites **4.00** Inside Art: Masterpieces from Buckingham Palace **5.00-6.00am** The Art of Architecture

Live EFL Cup
Sky Sports Main Event, 7pm
Newcastle host Manchester City in the semi-final first-leg at St James' Park. Harvey Barnes (left) scored twice as the Magpies secured a 2-1 win over City in the league fixture here in November.

U&GOLD

7.30am Ever Decreasing Circles **8.00** The Green Green Grass **8.40** Dad's Army **9.20** Are You Being Served? **10.00** Porridge **10.40** Keeping Up Appearances **11.20** Last of the Summer Wine **12.40pm** The Green Green Grass **1.20** Ever Decreasing Circles **2.00** Dad's Army **2.40** Are You Being Served? **3.20** Porridge **4.00** Ever Decreasing Circles **4.40** Last of the Summer Wine **6.00** Keeping Up Appearances **6.40** Porridge **7.20** Dad's Army **8.00** Blackadder II. Three episodes. **10.00** Men Behaving Badly **10.35** Blackadder II **12.35am** Men Behaving Badly **1.10** Blackadder II **3.05** Men Behaving Badly **3.30-4.00am** Keeping Up Appearances

U&YESTERDAY Freeview 27

6.10am Great British Railway Journeys **8.00** Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics **10.00** Rise of the Nazis: Dictators at War **11.00** True Evil: The Making of a Nazi **12.00noon** Antiques Roadshow **2.00** Bangers & Cash **4.00** Rise of the Nazis: Dictators at War **5.00** True Evil: The Making of a Nazi **6.00** Antiques Roadshow **7.00** Great Canal Journeys **8.00** Flipping Bangers **9.00** Bangers & Cash **10.00** Bangers & Cash **11.00** Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics **1.00am** Abandoned Engineering **2.00-3.00am** Rise of the Nazis: Dictators at War

U&ALIBI

7.15am Murdoch Mysteries **9.00** Father Brown **10.00** The Mentalist **11.00** Hudson & Rex **12.00noon** Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries **1.00** Death in Paradise **2.00** Murdoch Mysteries **4.00** The Mentalist **5.00** Hudson & Rex **6.00** Father Brown **7.00** Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries **8.00** Death in Paradise. Detective drama. **9.00** Dark Winds. Leaphorn is forced to confront his worst fears and darkest memories. Psychological thriller, with Zahn McClarnon, Jessica Matten and Deanna Allison. **10.00** Death in Paradise **11.00** Father Brown **12.00m't** So Help Me Todd **1.00** Death in Paradise **2.00-4.00am** Murdoch Mysteries

SKY MAX

6.00am Hawaii Five-0 **8.00** The Flash **9.00** Stargate SG-1 **11.00** SEAL Team **12.00noon** The Flash **1.00** Hawaii Five-0 **3.05** S.W.A.T **4.10** NCIS: Los Angeles **5.15** SEAL Team **6.15** Stargate SG-1 **8.15** Never Mind the Buzzcocks **9.00** Movie Megastars: Made in the 80s **11.00** Fear the Walking Dead **12.00m't** Creature Commandos **1.00** The Force: Manchester **2.00** Brit Cops: Rapid Response **3.00** S.W.A.T **4.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **5.00-6.00am** Highway Patrol

SKY ATLANTIC

6.00am Fish Town **7.00** The Guest Wing **8.00** Boardwalk Empire **10.10** The Sopranos **12.20pm** Game of Thrones **2.25** The Wire **4.40** Westworld **5.45** Deadwood **6.50** Game of Thrones **9.00** House of the Dragon. Double bill. **11.20** Deadwood **12.25am** The Sopranos **2.25** Game of Thrones **4.35** In Treatment **5.05-6.00am** Urban Secrets

SKY WITNESS

6.00am UK Border Force **7.00** Nothing to Declare **8.00** Border Patrol **9.00** Stop, Search, Seize **10.00** Border Security: Canada's Front Line **11.00** A1: Britain's Longest Road **12.00noon** FBI **1.00** The Rookie **2.00** Send in the Dogs **3.00** Stop, Search, Seize **4.00** Nothing to Declare **7.00** Police 24/7 **8.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **9.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit **10.00** Fire Country **11.00** The Rookie **12.00m't** FBI **1.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **2.00** Matlock **3.00** Doc **4.00** Road Wars **5.00-6.00am** Send in the Dogs

SKY COMEDY

8.00am Will & Grace **9.00** Ballers **10.15** Sex and the City **11.25** Entourage **12.30pm** Will & Grace **1.30** Sex and the City **2.45** Ballers **4.00** And Just Like That **4.45** The Office (US) **5.45** Will & Grace **6.45** Community **7.45** Sex and the City **9.00** FILM Disaster Movie (2008/12) Comedy, with Matt Lanter. ★ **10.45** And Just Like That **11.30** Community **12.30am** Entourage **1.35** Ballers **2.40** Curb Your Enthusiasm **3.50-5.00am** Silicon Valley

DISCOVERY

6.00am How Do They Do It? **7.00** Junkyard Empire **9.00** Gold Rush **11.00** Diesel Brothers **1.00pm** Deadliest Catch **3.00** How Do They Do It? **5.00** Alaska: Homestead Rescue **7.00** Wheeler Dealers **9.00** Gold Rush. Fires threaten to shut down one of Parker's claims. **11.00** Expedition Unknown **12.00m't** Deadliest Catch **1.00** Gold Rush **2.00** In the Eye of the Storm **3.00** Gold Divers **4.00-5.00am** Moonshiners

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

8.00am Megafactories **9.00** Air Crash Investigation: Special Report **10.00** Lost Treasures of Rome **11.00** WW2: Hell Under the Sea **12.00noon** World War II: Secrets from Above **1.00** Air Crash Investigation **3.00** Hitler's Last Stand **4.00** The Battle for Britain: Drain the Oceans **5.00** Ice Road Rescue **6.00** Nazi Megastructures **7.00** Air Crash Investigation **8.00** Hitler's Death Army: Das Reich **10.00** Gallipoli's Deep Secrets **11.00** Air Crash Investigation **12.00m't** Car S.O.S **1.00** To Catch a Smuggler **2.30** Abandoned **3.20-4.10am** Food Factory

Radio

BBC RADIO 1

97.6-99.8MHz 6.58am Newsbeat **7.00** Radio 1 Breakfast with Greg James **10.30** Newsbeat **10.33** Rickie, Melvin and Charlie **12.45pm** Newsbeat **1.00** Matt and Mollie **3.30** Newsbeat **3.33** Going Home with Katie and Jerry **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Radio 1's New Music Show with Jack Saunders **8.00** Radio 1's Future Artists with Sian Eleri **10.00** Radio 1's Power Down Playlist with CassKidd **11.00** Martha **1.00am** Radio 1's Drum & Bass Mix: Chilled D&B **2.00** Radio 1 Anthems **4.00** Radio 1 Pop Anthems **5.00-6.58am** Radio 1 Early Breakfast

BBC RADIO 2

88-91MHz 6.30am The Scott Mills Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00noon** Tina Daheley **2.00** Trevor Nelson **4.00** Sara Cox **6.30** Sara Cox's Half Wower **7.00** Jo Whiley's Shiny Happy Playlist **7.30** Jo Whiley **9.00** The Jazz Show with Jamie Cullum **10.00** The Good Groove with DJ Spoony **12.00m't** OJ Borg **3.00** Alternative Sounds of the 90s with Dermot O'Leary **4.00-6.30am** Owain Wyn Evans

BBC RADIO 3

90.2-92.4MHz 6.30am Breakfast **9.30** Essential Classics **1.00pm** Classical Live **4.00** Composer of the Week: Gottschalk **5.00** In Tune **7.00** Classical Mixtape **7.30** Radio 3 in Concert **9.45** The Essay: Five Kinds of Amadeus. Geoffrey Colman explores. **10.00** Night Tracks **11.30** 'Round Midnight **12.30-6.30am** Through the Night

CHOICE

Front Row
Radio 4, 7.15pm
Simon Webbe, Duncan James, Antony Costa and Lee Ryan, aka boy band Blue, join Tom Sutcliffe to discuss their seventh studio album, Reflections, which was released last week. Plus, director Josh Safdie talks about his table tennis biopic, Marty Supreme, which stars Timothée Chalamet.

BBC RADIO 4

FM 92.4-94.6MHz 6.00am Today **9.00** The Long View **9.30** Inside Health **10.00** Woman's Hour **11.00** Screenshot **11.45** Piccadilly **12.00noon** News **12.04** Call You and Yours **1.00** The World at One **1.45** Human Intelligence **2.00** The Archers **2.15** Drama: Almonds and Raisins **3.00** Lady Killers with Lucy Worsley **3.30** Heart and Soul **4.00** Mr and Mrs Angadi **4.30** What's Up Docs? **5.00** PM **6.00** News **6.30** You Heard It Here First **7.00** The Archers **7.15** Front Row **8.00** File on 4 Investigates **8.40** In Touch **9.00** Crossing Continents **9.30** The Bottom Line **10.00** The World Tonight **10.45** Book at Bedtime: The Cyberiad **11.00** Wild Inside **11.30** Today in Parliament **12.00m't** News **12.30** Piccadilly **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.00** As BBC World Service **5.00** News **5.04** Yesterday in Parliament **5.34** Shipping Forecast **5.43** Prayer for the Day **5.45-6.00am** Farming Today

BBC RADIO 5 LIVE

693/909kHz 6.00am 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Naga Munchetty **2.00pm** Matt Chorley **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport **8.00** 5 Live Sport. Newcastle United v Manchester City. (Kick-off 8.00pm). At St James' Park. **10.30** Tony Livesey **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo **5.00-6.00am** Wake Up to Money

BBC RADIO WALES

FM: 94.6MHz 6.00am Radio Wales News Update **6.05** Wake Up with Radio Wales **6.30** Surrounded by Rebellion: Wales's Redcoats in the American Revolution **7.00** Radio Wales Breakfast **9.00** Bronwen Lewis **11.59** The Phone In **2.00pm** Behnaz Akhgar **5.00** Radio Wales Drive **6.30** Science Cafe **7.00** Molly Palmer **10.00** Eleri Sion **12.00m't** Relax with Radio Wales **1.00-6.00am** As Radio 5 Live

CLASSIC FM

100-102MHz 6.30am Classic FM Breakfast with Dan Walker **9.00** The Classic FM Hall of Fame Hour with Dan Walker **10.00** Alexander Armstrong **1.00pm** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Relaxing Evenings with Zeb Soanes **10.00** Calm Classics. Ritula Shah presents. **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00-6.30am** Early Breakfast

ABSOLUTE RADIO

DAB 6.00am Dave Berry **10.00** Leona Graham **1.00pm** Ben Burrell **4.00** Bush and Richie **7.00** Danielle Perry **10.00** Jay Lawrence **1.00-6.00am** Dan Noble

Movies

FILM4

11.00am The Bedford Incident (1965/PG) Cold War thriller, starring Richard Widmark, Sidney Poitier and Martin Balsam. ★★★★
1.05pm Broken Arrow (1950/PG) Western, starring James Stewart. ★★★★
2.55 Ten Tall Men (1951/U) Foreign Legion comedy adventure, starring Burt Lancaster, Kieron Moore and Jody Lawrence. ★★★
4.50 Von Ryan's Express (1965/PG) Second World War action adventure, starring Frank Sinatra and Trevor Howard. ★★★
7.10 The Old Man & the Gun (2018/12) Fact-based crime drama, starring Robert Redford and Casey Affleck. ★★★★
9.00 Heat (1995/15) Thriller, starring Al Pacino and Robert De Niro. ★★★★★
12.20-3.15am Bad Times at the El Royale (2018/15) thriller, with Jeff Bridges. ★★★★

SKY CINEMA PREMIERE

6.25am Hallow Road (2025/15) See 3.45pm. ★★★★
7.50 Borderline (2025/15) See 2.50am. ★★★
9.30 Cookster: The Darkest Days (2024/15) Drama, starring Craige Middleburg. ★★★
11.30 Nuremberg (2025/15) See 8.00pm. ★★★★
2.00pm A Minecraft Movie (2025/PG) Fantasy adventure, starring Jason Momoa. ★★★★
3.45 Hallow Road (2025/15) Thriller, starring Rosamund Pike and Matthew Rhys. ★★★★
5.10 Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning (2025/12) Action thriller, starring Tom Cruise and Hayley Atwell. ★★★★
8.00 Nuremberg (2025/15) Thriller, starring Russell Crowe and Rami Malek. ★★★★
10.30 28 Years Later (2025/15) Horror, starring Jodie Comer, Ralph Fiennes and Aaron Taylor-Johnson. ★★★★
12.30am Sinners (2025/15) Horror thriller, starring Michael B Jordan. ★★★★
2.50 Borderline (2025/15) Dark comedy horror, starring Samara Weaving. ★★★
4.35-6.15am Safe House (2025/15) Thriller, starring Holt McCallany. ★★★

SKY CINEMA DRAMA

4.00pm Night Call (2024/15) Drama, starring Jonas Bloquet and Mustii. ★★★
5.40 Joker: Folie a Deux (2024/15) Musical, with Joaquin Phoenix and Lady Gaga. ★★
8.00 The Bodyguard (1992/15) Romantic thriller, starring Kevin Costner. ★★★★
10.10 Cool Hand Luke (1967/15) Drama, starring Paul Newman. ★★★★★
12.20am Chuck Chuck Baby (2024/15) Drama, with Louise Brealey. ★★★
2.05 PS I Love You (2007/12) Drama, with Hilary Swank and Gerard Butler. ★★★★
4.15-6.15am Pawn Sacrifice (2014/12) Drama, starring Tobey Maguire. ★★★★

SKY CINEMA FAMILY

4.30pm Stuart Little 2 (2002/U) Family adventure sequel, with the voice of Geena Davis and Hugh Laurie. ★★★
6.00 Look Who's Talking (1989/12) Comedy, starring Kirstie Alley and John Travolta. ★★★
7.50 Wicked (2024/PG) Musical fantasy adventure, starring Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande-Butera. ★★★★
10.40 Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010/U) Comedy sequel, starring Chris O'Donnell and James Marsden. ★★★
12.15am The Witches (1990/PG) Children's fantasy, starring Anjelica Huston. ★★★★
2.00 Mousehunt (1997/PG) Slapstick comedy, starring Nathan Lane and Lee Evans. ★★★★
3.50 Spy Kids (2001/U) Family adventure, starring Antonio Banderas. ★★★★
5.35-7.55am Stardust (2007/PG) Fantasy adventure, starring Charlie Cox. ★★★★

TALKING PICTURES TV

4.40pm Mon Oncle (1958/U) Comedy, directed by and starring Jacques Tati. ★★★★
6.55 The Man from UNCLE
8.00 Francis Durbridge's Melissa
9.05 The Case of the Frightened Lady (1983/PG) Drama, starring Virginia McKenna. ★★★
10.50pm Hammer House of Mystery and Suspense Paint Me a Murder.
12.25am The Red House (1947/PG) Mystery, starring Edward G Robinson. ★★
2.25 Ruth Ellis and the Mystery Lover
4.00-5.00am Target: The Corruptors

GREAT! MYSTERY

4.00pm Diagnosis Murder
5.00 Murder, She Wrote
6.00 Sue Thomas: FBEye
7.00 Castle The author's daughter is taken.
8.00 Unforgettable As Carrie and Al investigate a murder, the affluent locals close ranks.
9.00 Martha's Vineyard Mysteries: Riddled With Deceit (2020/PG) Drama, starring Jesse Metcalfe and Sarah Lind. ★★
10.55 Garage Sale Mystery (2013/PG) Crime drama, starring Lori Loughlin. ★★★
12.50am A Cry For Justice (2013/PG) Fact-based drama, with Francine Locke. ★★★
2.30 A Night to Regret (2018/12) Drama, with Mollee Gray and Marguerite Moreau. ★★
4.05-6.00am Sue Thomas: FBEye

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- ✓ Self-assembly required
- ✓ Dimensions: H104 x W51 x L90cm

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ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 20

After reflecting on various aspects of your life, you feel ready to put in the effort to implement changes you have been contemplating. Once you have organised your thoughts, everything will start to fall into place. The universe is aligning to support your aspirations. The afternoon will bring an excellent opportunity for new beginnings.

For more call **0905 789 4171**

(80p/min + network access charge)

TAURUS APRIL 21-MAY 21

New opportunities present themselves. These will include the chance to travel. This might be for an interview or a business meeting and it will mean having to quickly adjust your schedule. A partner will not be pleased with these new developments. Embrace this change cautiously, it could lead to unforeseen benefits if navigated with care.

For more call **0905 789 4172**

(80p/min + network access charge)

GEMINI MAY 22-JUNE 21

A project that previously held no appeal will capture your interest. You have a non-stop barrage of ideas you are eager to explore. Before you know it, you will have inspired the same level of enthusiasm in others, motivating them to join you in pursuing these plans. Embrace this wave of creativity, it may lead to unexpected and rewarding collaborations.

For more call **0905 789 4173**

(80p/min + network access charge)

CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 23

There continues to be a mix of highs and lows in relationships. It is understandable you sometimes feel confused. A close friend couldn't be more eager to move ahead with a joint project but something is causing you to pause and this won't be a minor issue. Take a moment to reflect on your instincts, they may guide you toward clarity in this situation.

For more call **0905 789 4174**

(80p/min + network access charge)

ORLANDO BLOOM
Born on this day, 1977

LEO JULY 24-AUG 23

It won't be easy to concentrate when you are feeling so restless. Your thoughts veer towards projects totally unrelated with your surroundings. If you are working, it would be best to exercise caution. You don't want your boss to notice your lack of focus. Allow yourself moments for daydreaming. A wander in thought can lead to unexpected insights.

For more call **0905 789 4175**

(80p/min + network access charge)

VIRGO AUG 24-SEPT 23

You normally take a practical approach to everyday affairs. What might surprise you is how changeable your mood is throughout the day. At first you will be enthusiastic about making some changes at home. Later you will suddenly go off the idea. Embrace this ebb and flow, as it may lead you to unexpected discoveries about your true desires.

For more call **0905 789 4176**

(80p/min + network access charge)

LIBRA SEPT 24-OCT 23

Talks with an older colleague will help you in your understanding of what truly matters. At the same time, your instincts will guide you towards paths most likely to lead to future happiness. Make a special attempt to get your aims firmly targeted. This exchange of wisdom may reveal insights you hadn't considered and inspire you to dream bigger.

For more call **0905 789 4177**

(80p/min + network access charge)

SCORPIO OCT 24-NOV 22

Relationships are tense. You will have been hoping to start again in a more harmonious spirit, but almost as soon as the day begins, there could be a reason for conflict. You really don't want a repeat performance of recent misunderstandings. Do your best not to sound too critical even when someone is annoying you with their ridiculous behaviour.

For more call **0905 789 4178**

(80p/min + network access charge)

SAGITTARIUS NOV 23-DEC 21

Actions speak louder than words. You will choose not to encourage conversations when it becomes apparent someone is trying to manipulate a situation to their advantage. Cut ties with certain individuals to help clarify the situation for others. Your strength lies in your ability to assert yourself, and this clarity may also inspire others to follow your lead.

For more call **0905 789 4179**

(80p/min + network access charge)

CAPRICORN DEC 22-JAN 20

A topic that has already been discussed will resurface. Someone knows how to get around you and they will be saying all the things they sense you want to hear. You recognise the game they are playing. At the same time, you might feel inclined to indulge a friend who is dear to you. Trust your instincts, they will guide you to deeper connections.

For more call **0905 789 4180**

(80p/min + network access charge)

AQUARIUS JAN 21-FEB 19

Before agreeing to let others have their own way, think about the potential outcome. You could find yourself agreeing to help a friend with their responsibilities because your own schedule is relatively free, but it could be a case of giving an inch and they will take a mile. Sometimes setting boundaries can strengthen relationships rather than weaken them.

For more call **0905 789 4181**

(80p/min + network access charge)

PISCES FEB 20-MARCH 20

You are on the verge of making a big step forward in your career. If someone in authority has failed to acknowledge your recent contributions, they will soon regret it. An offer from elsewhere will be one you need to consider. Embrace this moment, it holds the promise of exciting new possibilities that could redefine your professional path.

For more call **0905 789 4182**

(80p/min + network access charge)

Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge - maximum of 5 minutes duration. You must be over 18 and have the bill payer's permission. Service provider Spoke. Helpline 0333 202 3390

NUTWOOD TALES

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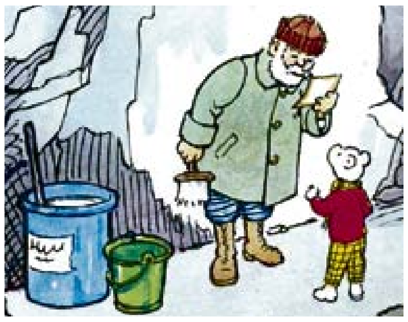
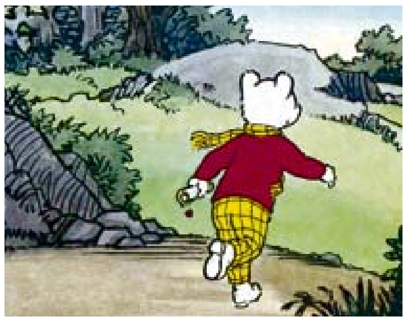
RUPERT AND THE PENGUINS No.10



*"Their King insists he must receive
Four royal names before he'll leave."*

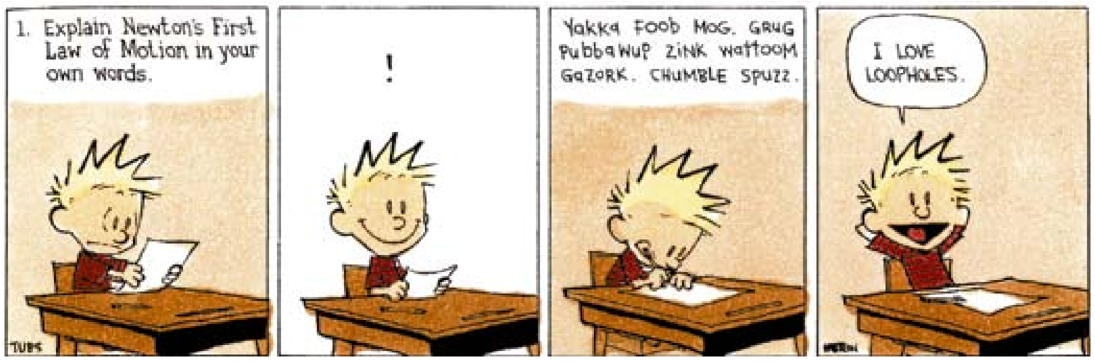
*"I think I know just who we need!"
And Rupert sets off at full speed.*



Wondering what he is going to do, Rupert dashes to tell Captain Chubb about the strange mission he has been given. "Now you can see why the King stays in the cave with all the other penguins," Rupert says. "He seemed happy enough with those kingcups. Now I have to find another three royal names." "H'm, that's quite a problem," muses the explorer. Then suddenly Rupert has an idea. "I know who might help me!" he exclaims and sets off.

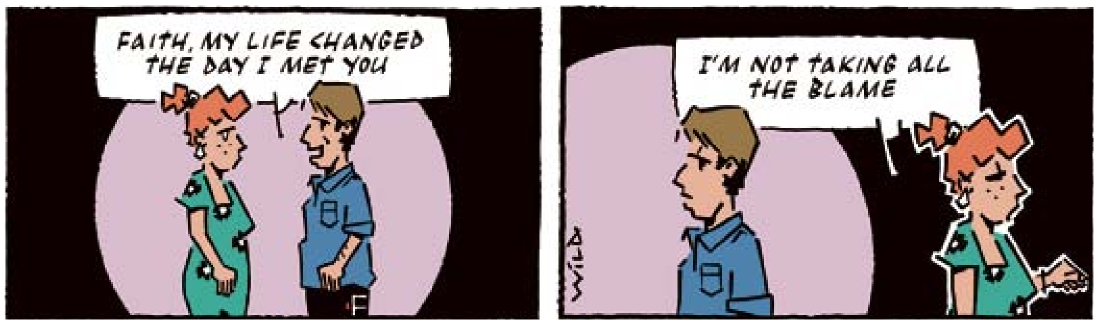
CALVIN AND HOBBES

BILL WATTERSON


1. Explain Newton's First Law of Motion in your own words.
!
Yakka foob mog. Grug pubbawup zink wattoom gazork. Chumble spuzz.
I LOVE LOOPHOLES.

FAITH, HOPE AND SUE

LISA WILD


FAITH, MY LIFE CHANGED THE DAY I MET YOU
I'M NOT TAKING ALL THE BLAME
WILD

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AT A GLANCE

STOCK MARKET

FTSE 100	10140.7	▲	+16.1
FTSE 250	23036.9	▲	+0.1
FTSE ALL SHARE	5465.3	▲	+7.5
Shares Traded	9405.3 million		

POPULAR SHARES ON THE RISE

Abrdn	213½	+3½
BAE Systems	2093	+40
BP	426½	+1
Centrica	181½	+½
HSBC Holdings	1202½	+8¼
Lloyds Banking Group	101	+¾
Saga	437½	+5
Shell	2661½	+21½
Tesco	417	+1½
Unilever	4770½	+26½

POPULAR SHARES UNCHANGED

Vodafone Group	101¼

POPULAR SHARES ON THE SLIDE

AstraZeneca	14120	-96
Aviva	676¾	-5¼
Barclays	473	-11¾
BT Group	180¼	-1
GSK	1877	-9
Int Consolidated Airlines	411	-13
Marks & Spencer Group	344	-9
National Grid	1178½	-14
NatWest Group	640¼	-2½
Rolls-Royce Holdings	1287	-6½
Sainsbury (J)	311½	-¼
Whitbread	2584	-50

WORLD MARKETS

WALL STREET	49590.2	▲	+86.1
TOKYO	51939.9	▲	+822.6
HONG KONG	26608.5	▲	+376.7
GERMANY	25405.3	▲	+143.7
FRANCE	8358.8	▼	-3.3

STERLING VALUE

Dollar	1.347	▲	+0.007
Yen	212.932	▲	+1.303
Euro	1.154	▲	+0.002

DOLLAR VALUE

Dollar/Yen	158.094	▲	+0.1454
Dollar/Euro	0.857	▼	-0.0031

COMMODITIES

GOLD($)	▲	4617.43
KRUGERRAND(£)	▲	3426.24
SILVER(pence)	▲	6374.67
BRENT CRUDE($)	▲	63.48

OTHER INDICATORS

Base rate	3.75%
Halifax mortgage rate	5.95%
Retail Price Index	+3.8% (CPI +3.2%)
House price Index	+1.7%
Unemployment	1,832,000

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Australia	1.96 dollar
Canada	1.82 dollar
China	8.80 renminbi
Czech Rep.	26.23 koruna
Denmark	8.16 krone
Eurozone	1.13 euro
Hong Kong	9.85 dollar
Hungary	416.80 forint
Israel	3.98 shekel
Japan	203.74 yen
Jordan	0.89 dinar
Mexico	22.81 peso
New Zealand	2.27 dollar
Norway	13.05 krone
Poland	4.61 zloty
Saudi Arabia	4.80 riyal
South Africa	21.18 rand
Sweden	11.74 krona
Switzerland	1.04 franc
Thailand	40.34 baht
Turkey	53.93 lira
United States	1.32 dollar

'Drab' Christmas for retail as shoppers save cash for sales

By **Josie Clark**

STORES suffered a "drab" run-up to Christmas as shoppers held out for the sales or saved for holidays or DIY.

Total retail sales were up 1.2% on a year earlier but below the 12-month average of 2.3%.

Non-food sales fell by 0.3% on last December and below the 12-month average of 1.1% growth. Food sales increased 3.1% – but inflation played into this and it was still below the 12-month average of 3.7%.

Helen Dickinson, chief executive of the British Retail Consortium which gathered the data with KPMG, said: "It was a drab Christmas for retailers. Sales growth slowed for the fourth consecutive month.

"Many people were clearly holding out for discounts, with the last week showing significant growth off the back of Boxing Day and beginning of the January sales."

Ms Dickinson added: "These figures show that consumer spending remains cautious, with households squeezed by the rising cost of living. Now is the time to support struggling families with the cost of food and essentials and give the economy the boost it needs.

"From business rates to the implementation of the Employment Rights Act, there are plenty of opportunities for government to mitigate costs for retailers and prices for customers."

Dickinson called for positive action

KPMG's Linda Ellett said: "Retail sales largely froze in December. It remains a challenging time for retailers, with consumers cutting back due to higher household bills.

"Any discretionary spend is being prioritised, particularly toward holidays and home improvements."

Barclays figures showed card spending down 1.7% year-on-year in December – the greatest decline since February 2021. Consumers reported increasing concern about food prices and inflation – with 56% planning to cut back on eating out and new clothes.

The bank's chief economist Jack Meaning said: "These numbers suggest 2025 ended with a whimper, following the slowdown last year. However, we expect inflation to ease significantly in the first half of 2026, which, alongside a further easing of interest rates, should provide consumers with respite, unlocking real spending power."

NO SLACKING FOR BUSY LOUNGERS

The firm aims to ramp up the number of its popular Cosy Clubs

CAFE bar and restaurant chain Loungers created more than 900 jobs in the past year and aims to double its 291 venues.

The Bristol-based firm runs Cosy Club and Brightsides, and has increased its headcount from 8,631 to 9,557. Revenue also grew from £353m to £406m but pre-tax profit was cut from £11.4m to £3.7m.

The firm, acquired by Fortress Investment Group last year, said: "We remain confident in our ability to deliver strong top-line performance through our compelling all-day offer in our existing and new sites."

It cited the "significant additional cost burden" of the increased national living wage and NI contributions but said profitability would be improved over the medium term.

Knitting fan Tom Daley

Diver Tom Daley makes a splash with craft chain

HOBBYCRAFT has hailed the "Tom Daley effect" after growing interest in crochet and knitting helped spark stronger sales prior to Christmas.

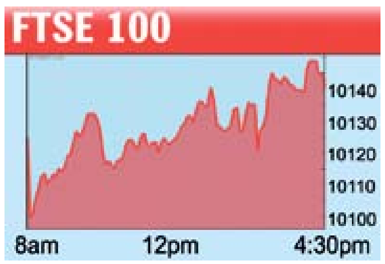
The Olympic diver hero, 31, has displayed his love for crafting on TV and social media, fuelling a sales surge driven by young newcomers. The retailer also reported increased demand for Christmas decor and DIY advent calendars amid "strong trading".

The firm – bought by Modella Capital in 2024 – reported that total revenues were up by 6.3% over the six weeks to December 28, compared with a year earlier. Online sales rose by 13.8%. It also saw sales of sewing machines jump, amid the popularity of shows such as The Great British Sewing Bee.

Chief executive Alex Willson said: "We're pleased to see strong trading numbers and hopeful of continued growth into 2026." Last year, the firm revealed plans to close nine stores.

++ THE FTSE 100 THE FTSE 100 THE FTSE 100 ++

			52 WEEK	
COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	HIGH	LOW
3i Group	3127	+5	4459	2999
A.B. Foods	1844½	-14½	2337	1810
Admiral Group	†			
Airtel Africa	364	-1¼	372¾	114¾
Alliance Trust	1294	-4	1324	1050
Anglo American	3252	+36	3281	2003¾
Antofagasta	3512	+39	3573	1383
Ashtead Group	5432#	-162	5594	3659
AstraZeneca	14120	-96	14268	9667
Auto Trader	581¾#	-11¾	908½	568½
Aviva	676¾	-5¼	692½	468¾
Babcock International	1490#	+21	1510	485¾
BAE Systems	2093	+40	2120	1180½
Barclays	473	-11¾	488½	241¾
Barratt Development	381½		482¼	350
Beazley Group	810	-13	973	769
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	4044	+22	4324	3462
BP	426½	+1	476¼	331¾
British Amer.Tob	4119#	+59	4421	2905
British Land	397#	-15¾	420½	321¼
BT Group	180¼#	-1	222¾	138¼
Bunzl	2082	-2	3452	2032
Burberry Group	1313	-22	1371½	627¾
Centrica	181½	+½	182¼	132¼
Coca-Cola HBC	3920	-18	4034	2708
Compass Group	2364	+19	2843	2305
Convatec Group	244	-2¼	295½	221¼
CRH	9704	+52	9758	6142
Croda International	2725	+32	3383	2465
DCC	4350	-96	5600	4328
Diageo	1674½	+44½	2503½	1577
Diploma	5590	-70	5675	3624
EasyJet	492	-10½	587¾	427½
Entain	749½	-14¾	1022	501¼
Experian Group	3399#	-79	4088	3091
F&C Inv Tst	1265#	-3	1271	962
Flutter Entert.	15675	-405	23630	14670
Fresnillo	3734	+228	3784	644½
Games Workshop	18870#	+110	19840	12410
GlaxoSmithKline	1877	-9	1902½	1264
Glencore	468½	+15¾	469	230
Haleon	362¼	-5¼	415¼	326½
Halma	3666#		3708	2360
Hikma	1565	-9	2340	1507
Hiscox	1399	+4	1429	1035
HSBC Holdings	1202½	+8¼	1217½	713¼
IMI	2638	+8	2644	1606
Imperial Brands	3025	+14	3312	2579
Informa	886¾	-14¼	993½	640¼
InterContinental Htl	10082¾	-3687¼	10279½	5512
Intermediate Cap.Grp	2076	-16	2450	1569
Intertek Group	4666	+48	5385	4064
Intl Consolidated Airlines	411	-13	437	224½
JD Sports	83½	-¾	104½	63¼
Kingfisher	325	+2¼	329¾	228¼
Land Securities	628	-16	650	499½
Legal & General	263¾	-3¼	267	215¼
Lloyds Banking Grp	101	+¾	101¼	53
London & Stamford Prop	195¼	-2½	204½	170½
London Stock Ex	9066	+114	12095	8138
M&G	295¼	-½	297¼	172¾
Marks & Spencer	344	-9	411¼	318½
Melrose	631	+5½	680	386
Mondi	895	-22¾	1326	819
National Grid	1178½#	-14	1193	910¾
NatWest Group	640¼	-2½	665½	374½
Next	14430	+95	14580	9028
Pearson	1071½	+11½	1379	984½
Pershing Square Hold	4722	+48	5090	3244
Persimmon	1414½	+18	1418	1037½
Phoenix Group	741½	+½	746	479½
Prudential	1166	+5½	1195½	595¼
Reckitt Benckiser	6228	+52	6228	4633
RELX	3155	-23	4135	2972
Rentokil Initial	473½	+2¼	478	309½
Rightmove	515½		823¾	504½
Rio Tinto	6135	+129	6291	4117
Rolls-Royce Group	1287	-6½	1304	563½
Sage Group	1104½#	+22	1348	1050
Sainsbury (J)	311½	-¼	355¾	228¾
Schroders	416½	-1½	428¼	289¼
Scottish Mortgage	1215	+3½	1218½	815¼
SEGRO	731	-1¼	743½	599
Severn Trent	2821#	-86	2907	2338
Shell	2661½	+21½	2931½	2291½
Smith & Nephew	1254	-4	1435	937¾
Smiths Group	2458		2550	1687
Smurfit Kappa	3151	-11	4495	2558
Spirax-Sarco	7115	+5	8190	5445
SSE	2283#	-30	2313	1463½
St James's Place	1461	+11	1464	791
Standard Chartered	1824	+29½	1855½	878¾
Tesco	417	+1½	475½	314½
Unilever	4770½	+26½	6177½	4631
United Utilities	1215½#	-26½	1242	937½
Vodafone Group	101¼#		103¾	64
Weir Group	3030	+30	3058	1984
Whitbread	2584	-50	3274	2335



Trump deals blow to Barclays cards

BARCLAYS shares were the worst performing on the FTSE 100 yesterday morning due to Donald Trump's plan to target credit cards.

Shares slumped 5% as investors braced for a hit to the performance of its US consumer arm.

Over the weekend, the US president unveiled plans to cap credit card interest rates at 10% – well below the current rate charged to most US consumers – in a bid to help them save money.

Trump posted: "We will no longer let the American public be 'ripped off' by credit card companies charging interest rates of 20 to 30%." The cap would be imposed on January 20 and last for a year.

London-based Barclays is one of the biggest players in the US market with around one in 30 of all credit cards issued there.

+ BG + Barclays + BT + Centrica + Dixons Carphone + First Group + HSBC + Kingfisher + Marks & Spencer + Next + Prudential + Rolls-Royce + Sainsburys + Tesco + Unilever + Vodafone + Whitbread + WPP

SHARES AT A GLANCE

Aerospace & Defence

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Avon Rubber	1950	+32	2180	1338
Babcock International	1490#	+21	1510	485¾
BAE Systems	2093	+40	2120	1180½
Chemring Group	548	+7	593	297½
QinetiQ Group	503½#	+3	572	361
Rolls-Royce Group	1287	-6½	1304	563½
Senior	219	+3½	221½	115¾

Alternative Energy

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Porvair	896	+54	920	626

Banks

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Barclays	473	-11¾	488½	241¾
Bco Santander	896	+7	905	377½
Close Brothers	501½	-16½	550½	208
HSBC Holdings	1202½	+8¼	1217½	713¼
Investec	576		596	414
Lloyds Banking Grp	101	+¾	101¼	53
Metro Bank	125	+½	133½	81
NatWest Group	640¼	-2½	665½	374½
Paragon Group	877½	-3½	970	686½
Standard Chartered	1824	+29½	1855½	878¾

Beverages

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Barr (AG)	617	-7	711	558
Coca-Cola HBC	3920	-18	4034	2708
Diageo	1674½	+44½	2503½	1577

Chemicals

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Carclo	57½	-1	80	21
Croda International	2725	+32	3383	2465
Elementis	170½		176½	115
Johnson Matthey	2330#	+28	2330	1156
Synthomer	61	-1¾	158¼	46
Treatt	216	-½	450	186½
Victrex	687	-6	1066	589

Construction & Materials

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Balfour Beatty	727	+4½	732	390½
Costain Group	162	-1¾	168	86
CRH	9704	+52	9758	6142
Dialight	345	+1	364	89
Galliford Try	546	+6	550	321
Gleeson (MJ)	427	+1	538	320
Keller Group	1688	-18	1786	1240
Kier Group	223½	-4½	231½	115¼
Marshalls	179¼	+1¾	293	162
Morgan Sindall	4900	-25	4975	2945
Severfield-Rowen	29½		52¼	19
Smart (J) & Co.	132½#		137½	110

Electricity

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Drax Group	882	-9½	915	536½
SSE	2283#	-30	2313	1463½
Telecom Plus	1354	-22	2085	1340

Electronic & Electrical Equipment

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Acal	598#	-6	738	486
Halma	3666#		3708	2360
Oxford Instruments	2150	+40	2205	1500
Renishaw	3710		3745	2145
TT Electronics	110	-2	154	73
XP Power	911	-9	1314	621

Equity Investment Instruments

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Aberdeen Asian Sml	381	+3	382	256
Aberforth Smll.Co.	1604	-6	1618	1212
Acorn Income				
Albion Tech.& Gen. VCT	66		71	64½
Alliance Trust	1294	-4	1324	1050
Aurora Inv.Tst.	279	+4	279	212½
AVI Global Tst	257	-2½	266½	202
Baillie Gifford Japan	939	+3	951	657
Baillie Gifford Shin Nip	135	+½	136¾	95½
Bankers Inv.Tst	135½		136½	101
Baronsmead VCT.2	48½		52	46½
BH Macro GBP	400	-4	414	371½
Biotech Growth Trust	1240	-20	1285	620
BlackRock Mining	938	+30	940	406½
Bluehone AiM VCT2	28¼#		31	28¼
British Assets Tst	27½	+¼	49¼	26¼
Brunner Inv.Tst.	1490	+10	1514	1140
Caledonia Inv.	384½	+3½	391½	334½
City Natural Res.Yld	384	+12	384	165¾
City Of London	541		542	411½
Dunedin Ent.IT.				
Dunedin Income	310		311	262
Edin Wwide Inv	226½	-1	230	143
Edin.Inv.Tst.	831		839	680
Edin.US Tracker	385#	+3	385	289½
Elderstreet VCT	38¾		41	36¾
F&C Cap&Inc.	350	-1	353	287
F&C Inv Tst	1265#	-3	1271	962
F&C Smaller Cos	181½#	+¼	181½	136½
F&C US Smaller Companies	1405	-15	1522½	1115
Fidelity Asian	612		628	454
Fidelity European	431	+½	433	338½
Fidelity Special	426#	+2½	426	295½
Finsbury Gwth&In	840	+3	962	795
Foresight Tech.VCT	65½		75½	62
Genesis E.M.F.	1110	+12	1114	632
Graphite Ent	1536	+24	1600	1070
Hansa Tst 'A'	268	-2	272	190
Hansa Tst Plc	273	-1	278	192½
Henderson Far Est	245½	+1	253½	190½
Henderson High Inc	192#		193½	151
Herald Inv.Tst.	2610	-30	2640	1738
HGCapital Tst.	509		538	448
HSBC Infrastructure	117½	+¼	125¼	106
Impax Env.Mkt	404	+1	416½	310½
Int.Biotech.Tst.	968#	-18	996	480
International Public	127½	+1	127¾	107¾
Invesco Asia	441#	+3	447	300
Invesco Perp UK	375	-5	386	313½
JPM American	1124	-6	1186	869
JPM Asian	476	+5	477½	331½
JPM Claverhouse	886	+2	886	660
JPM Emerg Mkt	143½	+½	144¼	95
JPM Euro Sml Co.	613#	+1	614	444½
JPM Global Emerging	177#	+1	178	118½
JPM Indian	1004		1106	904
JPM Japanese	740#	+3	747	493
JPM Overseas IT	584	-1	610	480
JPM Smaller Co	330½	+½	338	253
JPM US Sml Co.	416	-2	516	338
Jupiter Euro.	935	+1	959	757
JZ Capital Partners	184	-5	220	174
Law Debenture	1104#	+6	1106	788
Lowland Invest Co	164#	-½	165	114½
Majedie Inv.	276		282	230
Manchester&Lon.	813	-1	944	512
Martin Currie Prtflo Tst.	361#	+3	386	295
Maven Income And Growth VCT	33½#		38	33½
Mercantile Inv Tst	263#	+½	263½	202½
Merchants Tst	606	-2	611	474
Mid Wynd Int.	790		836	664
Monks Inv.Tst.	1544	-8	1554	1036
Montanaro Euro Tst	169		183½	138
Montanaro Uk	104½	+½	106½	87¾
Murray Inc.Tst.	933	+1	938	754
Murray Int.Tst	332½#	+½	335	239
New India	756	-12	832	686
New Star Inv.Tst.	128	+1	129	100
North Atl.Smlr.Tst				
Northern 2 VCT	53½#		57	52
Northern Venture	56½#		58½	55½
Oxford Tech 2 VCT	6½		7	5½
Pacific Assets	374	+1	378	302
Pacific Horizon	836	+8	837	507
Pantheon Int.	383		385	266
Pershing Square Hold	4722	+48	5090	3244
Polar Cap.Tech	480	+½	481	255½
RCM Technology Trust	543	+3	548	307
RIT Capital Partners	2235	+20	2275	1722
Ruffer Investment	298	+2	304	264½
Schroder Asia	692#	+2	694	461½
Schroder Inc.	351#	-3	355	255
Schroder Japan	334#	+3	335	209
Schroder UK	209		210	158½
Schroder UK M&S	728		732	520
Scottish American	520	+3	525	454½
Scottish Mortgage	1215	+3½	1218½	815¼
Shires Inc.	306½#	-3½	316½	222
Small Comp Div.Tst	137	-5	161	124
Standard Life Equity	405#	-3	408¾	288½
Standard Life UK Sml	517	+2	531	426
Temple Bar	382	-1½	386½	258
Templeton Emrg.	248#	+1	249	151¾
The European Inv.Tst	111#	+1	111	84
Throgmorton Tst.	637	+4	639	469
TR Euro.Growth	224½	+½	225	163
TR Prop. IT	328½	-½	338½	277½
Witan Pacific	316	+3	322	214
Wwide Healthcare	380½	-5½	397	265½

Financial Services

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
3i Group	3127	+5	4459	2999
3i Infrastructure	379½#	+1½	381	301
Abrdn	213½	+3½	213½	123¾
Ashmore Group	187	+2¼	193	125
Guinness Peat Group	84	-1	96	68¼
IG Group	1325	+6	1342	913
Intermediate Cap.Grp.	2076	-16	2450	1569
International Pers Fin	236	-1	237	121½
IP Group	56¾		65	34¾
Jupiter Fund Man.	172½	-¼	175½	68
Liontrust Asset Man	245	+2	458	231½
London Stock Ex.	9066	+114	12095	8138
M&G	295¼	-½	297¼	172¾
Man Group	256	+¼	257¼	154¾
Provident Financial	115		128½	45
Rathbone Brothers	2000	-25	2043½	1406
S & U	2240	+10	2250	1330
Schroders	416½	-1½	428¼	289¼
St James's Place	1461	+11	1464	791
Tullett Prebon	251½	-2	311½	228
Walker Crips Group	13¼		15¾	7½

Fixed Line Telecommunications

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Airtel Africa	364	-1¼	372¾	114¾
BT Group	180¼#	-1	222¾	138¼

Food & Drug Retailers

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Greggs	1625	-11	2234	1418
Marks & Spencer	344	-9	411¼	318½
Ocado	288½	+16¾	395½	172¼
Sainsbury (J)	311½	-¼	355¾	228¾
Tesco	417	+1½	475½	314½

Food Producers

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
A.B. Foods	1844½	-14½	2337	1810
Anglo-Eastern	1380	-10	1425	602
Carr's Milling	130½	-3½	157	107
Cranswick	4970#	+20	5490	4625
Glanbia	1317¼		1369¼	788¾
Greencore Group	236½#	-1½	278½	169¼
Kerry Grp 'A' Shs	6413	-104	8753	6170½
Premier Foods	168	-2¾	214½	167
REA Holdings	133	+4	135½	61½
Tate & Lyle	371	+2¼	661	358

Gas, Water & Multiutilities

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Centrica	181½	+½	182¼	132¼
National Grid	1178½#	-14	1193	910¾
Pennon Group	533½	-15½	552	387½
Severn Trent	2821#	-86	2907	2338
United Utilities	1215½#	-26½	1242	937½

General Industrials

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Bunzl	2082	-2	3452	2032
Goodwin	22900	-400	23600	6180
Melrose	631	+5½	680	386
Mondi	895	-22¾	1326	819
Smiths Group	2458		2550	1687
Smurfit Kappa	3151	-11	4495	2558

General Retailers

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
ASOS	297	-½	436½	218½
Auto Trader	581¾#	-11¾	908½	568½
B&M Europ Value Ret	166¼	-7	344½	155¼
Caffyns	425		500	415
Dixons Carphone	127#	-4½	146	82
Dunelm	1156	-11	1232	858½
Frasers Group	685	-9	770	546
Halfords Group	142¼#	-4½	174½	116¼
Headlam Group	44½	-2½	142	44½
Howden Joinery	841½	-11	914½	679½
Inchcape	792	+9	808	638
JD Sports	83½	-¾	104½	63¼
Kingfisher	325	+2¼	329¾	228¼
Next	14430	+95	14580	9028
Pets At Home	196½	-¾	273¼	192¾
RM Group	112	-2	118	82
Topps Tiles	44#		50	29
WH Smith	626	-17½	1307	613½

Health Care Equipment & Services

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Convatec Group	244	-2¼	295½	221¼
Flying Brands	+¾		2	+½
Smith & Nephew	1254	-4	1435	937¾

Household Goods & Home Construction

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Barratt Development	381½		482¼	350
Bellway	2788#		2982	2166
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	4044	+22	4324	3462
Bovis Homes	701	+14¼	705½	510¾
Mcbride	145	-1	159	99¼
Persimmon	1414½	+18	1418	1037½
Reckitt Benckiser	6228	+52	6228	4633
Taylor Wimpey	109¾	+¾	123¼	93

Industrial Engineering

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Bodycote	743	+½	748	460½
Hill & Smith	2310	+15	2310	1530
IMI	2638	+8	2644	1606
Morgan Crucible	229½	-1½	274	177½
Northgate	381	-5	395	273½
Rotork	339½	-¾	352	275¾
Spirax-Sarco	7115	+5	8190	5445
Vesuvius	416	-9½	433½	313¾
Weir Group	3030	+30	3058	1984
Xaar	102	-½	145	59

Industrial Metals & Mining

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Castings	271	-6	319	234
Evraz				
Ferrexpo	69¾	-2¼	110¾	44¼

Industrial Transportation

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Braemar Shipping Serv	223#	-7	278	201
Clarkson	4120	-45	4505	2995
FirstGroup	188½	-2	233	146½
Fisher (J) & Sons	375	+1	403	285

Leisure Goods

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Games Workshop	18870#	+110	19840	12410
Photo-Me Intl.	143	-5½	230	143

Life Insurance

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Aviva	676¾	-5¼	692½	468¾
Chesnara	301½	-2½	304½	212¾
Legal & General	263¾	-3¼	267	215¼
Phoenix Group	741½	+½	746	479½
Prudential	1166	+5½	1195½	595¼

Media

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
4imprint Group	4160	-5	6030	3035
Bloomsbury Publish.	485½	+6½	672	468
Future	512	-10	1029	510¼
Informa	886¾	-14¼	993½	640¼
ITV	81¼		87¾	66¼
Pearson	1071½	+11½	1379	984½
Reach	55	-1¼	88¼	53
STV Group	113	-4	208	103
Wilmington Group	289	-6	387	286
WPP Group	327	-23	787¾	269

Mining

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Anglo American	3252	+36	3281	2003¾
Anglo Pacific	128½#	+5½	128½	50
Antofagasta	3512	+39	3573	1383
BHP Billiton	2350	+54	2403	1609½
Endeavour Mining	4056	+162	4098	1485
Fresnillo	3734	+228	3784	644½
Gem Diamonds	3	+¼	12	2½
Glencore	468½	+15¾	469	230
Hochschild Mining	573	+50	573	168
Kenmare Res.	257	-½	436	227
Petra Diamonds	17	-¼	30½	10½
Rio Tinto	6135	+129	6291	4117

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Mobile Telecommunications

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Vodafone Group	101¼#		103¾	64

Nonequity Investment Instruments

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Oryx Int.Gwth.	1210	-50	1392½	1042½
Rights &Iss.Inc	2010	-20	2280	1670

Nonlife Insurance

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Admiral Group				
Beazley Group	810	-13	973	769
Hiscox	1399	+4	1429	1035
Lancashire	601	-2	694	523

Oil & Gas Producers

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
BP	426½	+1	476¼	331¾
Cairn Energy	218	-2	331½	183
Enquest	10½	+¼	16½	9¾
Gulf Keystone Pet.	174¼	-1¾	224½	148¾
Harbour Energy	198	+7	294	151¼
Shell	2661½	+21½	2931½	2291½
Soco International	20½#	-¼	27½	18
Tullow Oil	6½		23¾	4

Oil Equipment, Services & Distribution

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Hunting	393½	+1½	399	246½
John Wood Group	24¼		72½	17¼

Personal Goods

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Burberry Group	1313	-22	1371½	627¾
PZ Cussons	72	+½	88¼	66
Unilever	4770½	+26½	6177½	4631

Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
AstraZeneca	14120	-96	14268	9667
Genus	2565	+25	2715	1424
GlaxoSmithKline	1877	-9	1902½	1264
Haleon	362¼	-5¼	415¼	326½
Hikma	1565	-9	2340	1507
Ovoca Gold	1¼			
Oxford Biomedica	749	+19	764	232½

Real Estate Investment & Services

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Boot (Henry)	223	-3	237	196
Cardiff Property	2700		2750	2540
CLS Holdings	58	-2¼	78	53½
Foxtons	58		68¼	52¼
Harworth Group	169	+2½	189½	159
Mountview Est.	9100	-200	10200	8700
Panther Secs.	285		320	270
Rightmove	515½		823¾	504½
Savills	1022	-12	1110	871
Wynnstay Props.	875		900	680

Real Estate Investment Trusts

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Big Yellow Group	1046#	-10	1180	848
British Land	397#	-15¾	420½	321¼
Capital & Counties	143	-1¾	161¼	113½
Derwent London	1826	-24	2096	1608
Grainger	193½	-1	228	177½
Great Portland Est.	325½	-2½	363	262
Hammerson	344½	-3½	349½	220½
Helical Bar	188¼#	-4	240	171¾
Land Securities	628	-16	650	499½
London & Stamford Prop	195¼	-2½	204½	170½
Primary Health	103½	+½	103¾	86¼
SEGRO	731	-1¼	743½	599
Town Centre	124	+½	149	117
Unite Group	566	-8½	879½	510
Value & Income	202#	-1	215	173
Workspace Group	410#	-5½	478½	362

Software & Computer Services

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Computacenter	3190	+22	3212	2024
Intec Telecom				
Microgen	295		344	255
Moneysupermarket	187	-3¼	221½	180½
Pendragon	348	-5½	558	296
RELX	3155	-23	4135	2972
Sage Group	1104½#	+22	1348	1050
Triad Group	250		400	240

Support Services

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Ashtead Group	5432#	-162	5594	3659
Capita Group	398	-7½	409½	175
DCC	4350	-96	5600	4328
Diploma	5590	-70	5675	3624
Essentra	95		126¼	89¾
Experian Group	3399#	-79	4088	3091
Ferguson	17930#	+370	19470	11670
Hays	51¾	-¾	88¼	51¼
Intertek Group	4666	+48	5385	4064
Johnson Service	136	-¾	159½	122¾
London Security	2850		3800	2750
Macfarlane Group	72		120½	62¾
Mears Group	354	-4	417½	311½
Michael Page	223½	-3½	341¼	219½
Mitie Group	166½#	-3¼	171½	106½
Norish	18½		18¾	14
Paypoint	456½	-4	853	438½
Rentokil Initial	473½	+2¼	478	309½
Robert Walters	137	+1	324	116
RS Group	650	-3½	681½	487¼
Serco Group	292½	-2	296	147
SIG	9¾		18	8½
Smiths News	66¾#	-2½	77½	47½
Speedy Hire	24¾#		32¼	18
SThree	180¼	-1½	289½	137½
Travis Perkins	649½	-17½	714	494
Trifast	71½	+½	87½	59
Vitec Group	12	+¾	142	11

Technology Hardware & Equipment

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
BATM Advanced	16½		19¾	13

Tobacco

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
British Amer.Tob	4119#	+59	4421	2905
Imperial Brands	3025	+14	3312	2579

Travel & Leisure

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
888 Holdings	22¾	+½	74	21
Carnival	2327	-34	2406	1134
Celtic	199		208	142½
Compass Group	2364	+19	2843	2305
Domino's Pizza	179	-½	302¾	167¼
EasyJet	492	-10½	587¾	427½
Entain	749½	-14¾	1022	501¼
Flutter Entert.	15675	-405	23630	14670
Fuller Smith & Turner	734	-4	742	508
Heavitree	220		280	200
InterContinental Htl	10082¾	-141	10279½	5512
Intl Consolidated Airlines	411	-13	437	224½
Irish Continental Uts	575	+27½	585	380
Marston's	65	-2	69¼	33¼
Mitchells & Butlers	275		291½	208½
National Express	23		78	21
Rank Group	97	-2½	160½	77¾
Saga	437½	+5	449	111½
Wetherspoon (JD)	756½	+1	804	541
Whitbread	2584	-50	3274	2335

AIM

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Alumasc Group	252	-3	395	232
Arbuthnot Banking	880		1100	837½
Boohoo	23	+1½	31	10½
Camellia	5005	-45	6050	4090
Churchill China	335	+5	710	321¾
CML Microsystems	265	-5	335	210
Colefax Group	960	+5	979	750
CPP Group	80		162	68½
Cropper (James)	400		410	132½
Falkland Islands	251#	-9	316¾	162½
Fevertree Drinks	826	-4	998	611½
Filtronic	172½	+4	181	82½
James Halstead	138½		181½	133
Mothercare	2½		4¼	2¼
Mpac Group	320		586	270
Naked Wine	77	+1¾	93½	43
Nichols	956	-16	1465	930
Northamber	31½#		34	26
Portmeirion	100		189	94
Regal Petroleum	16¼		26½	14½
Rockhopper Exploratn	66½	-4¾	87¾	33¼
Ten Alps	46½		73	45
Titon Holdings	97½		99¾	69
Volex	432	-2½	439½	198¾
Young & Co Brewery A	801	+11	992	714

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The oven comes with an air fryer basket, baking pan, and oven rack, allowing you to cook multiple foods at once or switch between cooking styles with ease. The combined touch and rotary controls provide simple, accurate operation, while the compact footprint fits neatly on any countertop.

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Letters

Edited by GREG MORGAN

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London a safe city! What planet is the Met chief on?

METROPOLITAN Police Commissioner Sir Mark Rowley is living in a parallel universe if he believes crime in London is falling.

So the murder rate fell, it can be measured. Yet not all violent crime, knife crime, phone theft and burglary is.

Is overt shop theft included, where staff are threatened at knifepoint as they are robbed?

While official figures indicate there are 250 gangs operating in our capital – 82 of them foreign – the Met chief insists that 80% of people feel safe on London's streets. How many women and girls has he spoken to?

Oxbridge educated, Rowley seems typical of the political establishment who are skilled in selective euphemisms.

Jim Sokol,
Minehead, Somerset

Keir can't patrol Channel, he's no chance in Ukraine

IT'S laughable that Keir Starmer is planning to send British troops to patrol the Russia-Ukraine border when he is unable to control illegal immigration across the 22 miles of the English Channel ("PM should put as much effort into our borders as he does Ukraine's", January 9).

Additionally, the British Army has been decimated to such an extent that it's unlikely to have more than a dozen or so soldiers available to send.

Given that Russia is refusing to have this peacekeeping force there and there is also no sign of any agreement on a ceasefire it's pretty irrelevant, but then so is Starmer.

Barrie Warren,
Bury, Lancs

You and whose tiny army, Starmer? We've no troops

KEIR Starmer seems to be enacting a scene from the film Downfall, he appears to be in his bunker deploying troops that don't exist.

Given that the entire British Army can now fit in Wembley Stadium with 8,000 seats to spare, just where are all these troops coming from?

John Kennedy,
Hornchurch, Essex

You don't get Peace Prize for starting wars, Donald

ONE can only assume that Donald Trump has given up all hopes of a Nobel Peace Prize given his aggressive behaviour towards Greenland, with the threat to invade making him no better than Vladimir Putin invading Ukraine ("Europe plans forces to defend Greenland", January 12).

Also his attack on Venezuela was unprecedented, and possibly illegal, including the fact that he has decided the US will oversee the running of Venezuela.

Who else does he have in his sights? He seems to be out of control. His actions are also threatening the survival of Nato. The Nobel Peace Prize? I don't think so, Donald.

Patricia East,
Guildford, Surrey

LETTER OF THE DAY

CAUGHT: Albanian crime gang member Sidorjan Lleshi

Trump-style bans for red flag nations

I COULDN'T believe after reading Saturday's Daily Express the amount of crimes committed by foreign nationals ("Foreigners held for 470 crimes every day", January 10).

Surely the authorities must have records from criminal acts in their own countries, yet they waltz into ours without being vetted.

People from certain countries, whether legal or illegal migrants, should be banned from entering at all cost.

Every time you read or see the news it's always the same Eastern European countries they are coming from, mainly Albanian and Romanian gangs.

Wake up, Government. Time to call a halt to this nonsense.

Colin Warren,
Thurston, Suffolk

Crude Venezuela invasion was not a slick operation

DONALD Trump has been mouthing off about how great the invasion of Venezuela has been for the US, but it has backfired badly on him ("Marines storm oil tanker in Caribbean", January 10).

The numerous oil companies that he believed would fall over themselves to get contracts to produce oil in Venezuela have all turned it down. The oil is more like tar, needs expensive refining and the infrastructure has collapsed anyway, with endless security dangers to the companies.

It just shows how important it is to do your homework first. Something Trump doesn't believe in.

Sally Wilton,
Bournemouth, Dorset

Put UK on list of countries to be run by United States

IT WOULDN'T be a great surprise if Donald Trump put the UK on his list of countries to take over due to the situation of the invasion of illegal migrants, slowly but surely destroying the whole character of our great nation ("We must follow Trump's example on foreigners", January 10). Pro Islamists and anti Jewish cults are destroying all that we stand for, it simply has to be stopped. It has to be done now, not in years to come.

With Keir Starmer in charge with his bunch of nonentities we have no chance.

Reform UK is possibly the only way for us to get out of this mess. If he fails to do it, "bring it on, Donald".

Mike Kane,
Corby, Northants

BBC must carry ads and put shows behind paywall

IT WAS refreshing to read an unbiased view by Jonathan Walker on the funding of the BBC ("Adverts on Auntie? That's just one of the options to replace licence fee if BBC is to move with the times", January 10).

The clear problem for the BBC is those aged 16-24 only watch 31 minutes of TV per day.

The only solution is to fix the licence fee at its current level and give the BBC the power to raise money by adverts, premium programme charging or using tech to ensure only licence holders watch BBC content to make up any shortfall.

Trevor Hill,
Pinner, Gtr London

Carole has got gift of the jab but there's a big cost

I'VE always enjoyed "Fun, Feisty and Fearless" Carole Malone and her view that people should take responsibility for their actions – but no more ("Free NHS jab? Fat chance", January 10). Her inability to differentiate between those on lifelong drugs for diseases over which they have little control such as heart disease, cancer, mental illness and HRT, and those like Carole on Mounjaro, is shameful.

Of all people, I thought Carole would set an example and eat less, as providing free fat jabs could double the entire drugs budget for the NHS.

Roy Daniels,
Kingsclere, Hants

Macc lads show magic of the FA Cup is still alive

A MASSIVE shout out to National League North side Macclesfield Town, who have beaten Premier League opposition in Crystal Palace to reach the fourth round ("A toast to the FA Cup", January 12).

Huge credit to their manager John Rooney, who is clearly better at the job than his brother, Wayne.

Richard Day,
Embsay, N Yorks

UNITED'S REVOLVING DOOR POLICY IS KILLING REVIVAL CHANCES

WHAT has been the problem for Manchester United and other Premier League clubs is their revolving door for managers ("Wel, what did you expect?", January 12).

They wanted to have so-called world-class managers who often came to prominence because they sat on the coat-tails of really great managers who built great teams.

United, like other clubs' owners, never learned. They ended up just throwing good money after bad and bringing in more of the same, with managers and players alike.

Peter Morgan,
Shrewsbury, Salop

TODAY: Tuesday January 13, 2026

ON THIS DAY

DAILY EXPRESS
'Independence isle' coup
NAVY SENDS HELP
Boy dies after two accidental shots

62 years ago (1964)

We told how a Royal Navy warship was on standby after rebels seized power in the newly independent "spice island" of Zanzibar off the east coast of Africa.

Republican supporters took control of the police, the radio station and airport as the Arab Sultan was deposed and British and US citizens were evacuated. The revolution is celebrated every year.

22 years ago (2004)

Britain's worst serial killer Harold Shipman was found hanged in his cell at Wakefield Prison on the eve of his 58th birthday.

Some of his victims' families said they felt cheated by his suicide as it meant that the GP would never confess to his crimes or reveal why he carried out the murders.

14 years ago (2012)

Thirty-two people died when the Italian cruise ship the Costa Concordia sank after hitting a submerged rock off the Isle of Giglio in the Tyrrhenian Sea.

The vessel's Captain Francesco Schettino was found guilty of manslaughter, causing a maritime accident and abandoning his ship. Schettino was sentenced to 16 years in prison.

BIRTHDAYS

Actor **Liam Hemsworth** is 36. He started his career on Neighbours. Actor **Orlando Bloom** is 49. He and singer Katy Perry have a daughter, Daisy. Actress **Ruth Wilson** is 44. She learned how to shear a sheep for a role. Grey's Anatomy actor **Patrick Dempsey** is 60. He once came second in a juggling contest.

TODAY'S GIGGLE

Did you hear about the man who drank invisible ink? He's waiting to be seen by doctors.

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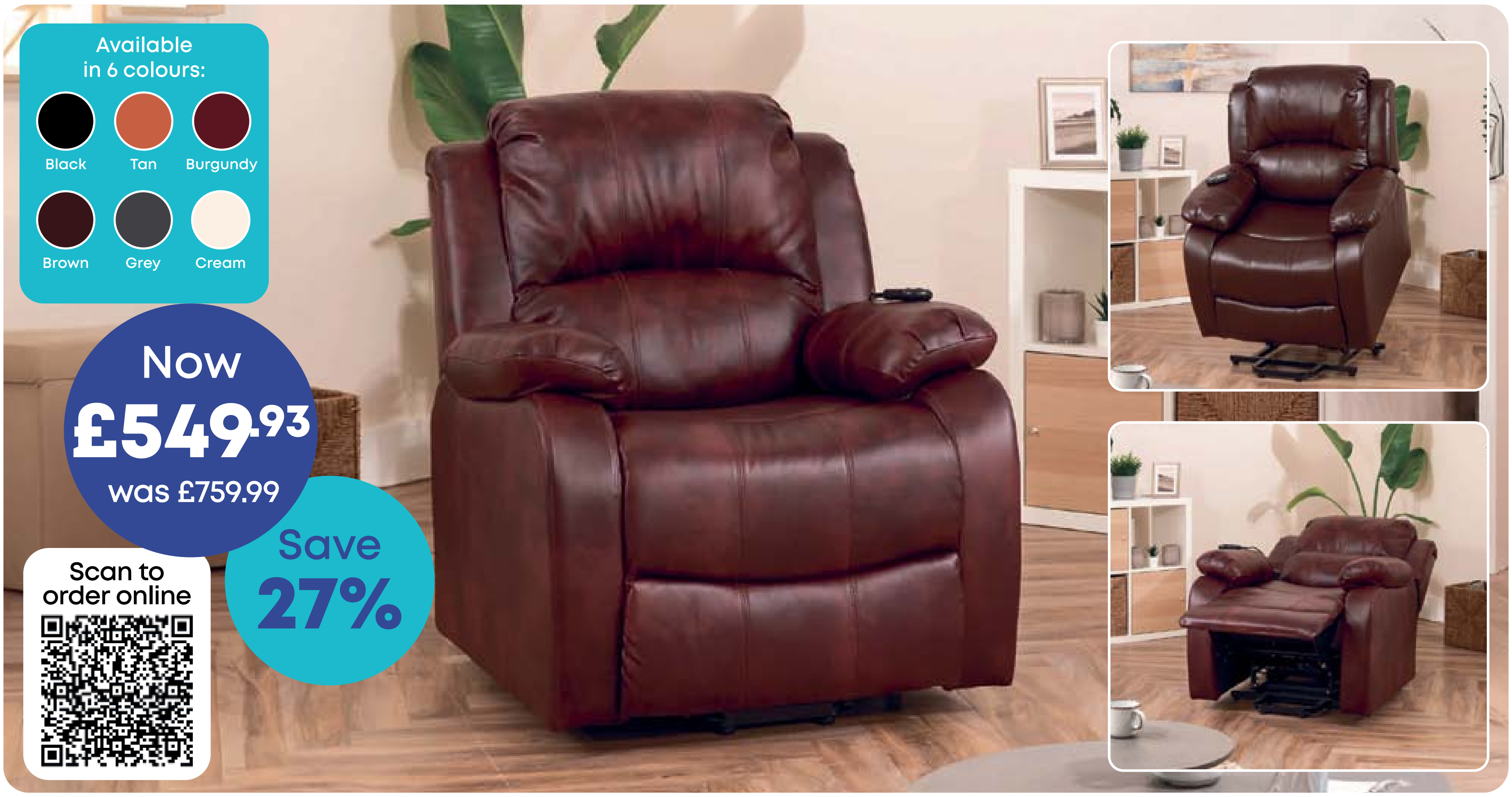

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Thanks to its clever dual motor system, you can raise your legs and recline your back separately. This means you can find the exact position that suits you, whether it's feet up for a well-earned rest, or fully reclined for a cosy nap. Smooth, quiet operation makes every movement effortless.

ELEGANT SUPPORT THAT LASTS

The chair's sturdy wooden frame supports up to 130kg and is upholstered in supple bonded leather that feels soft to the touch and looks timeless in any home. Generous padding through the back, seat and armrests cushions the body gently, making it easy to sit comfortably for longer periods.

COMFORT YOU CAN FEEL

The Northfield doesn't just look after your posture; it also helps soothe tired muscles. Built-in massage points target your lower and upper back, while a warming lumbar heat function helps ease stiffness and encourages relaxation. It's especially comforting during cooler months or for those with everyday aches and pains.

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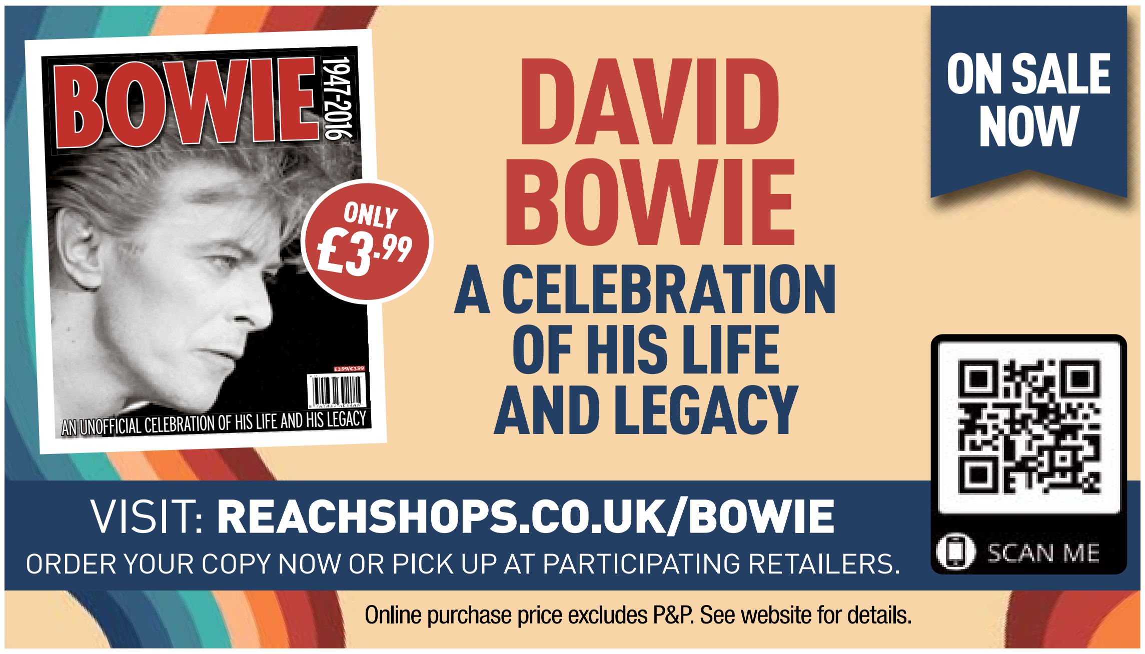

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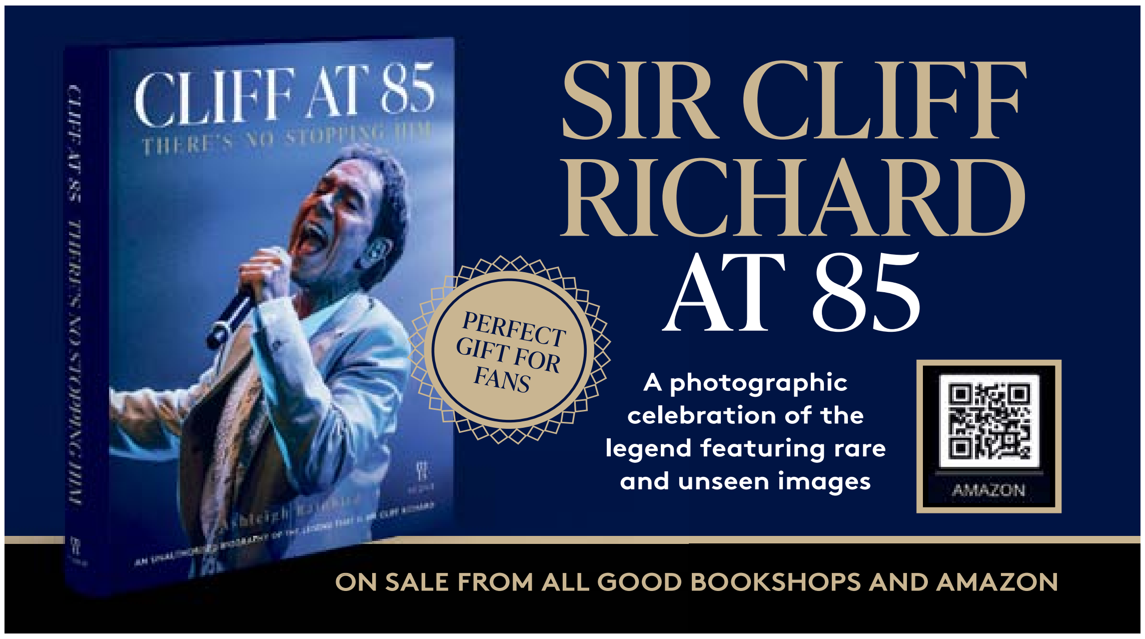

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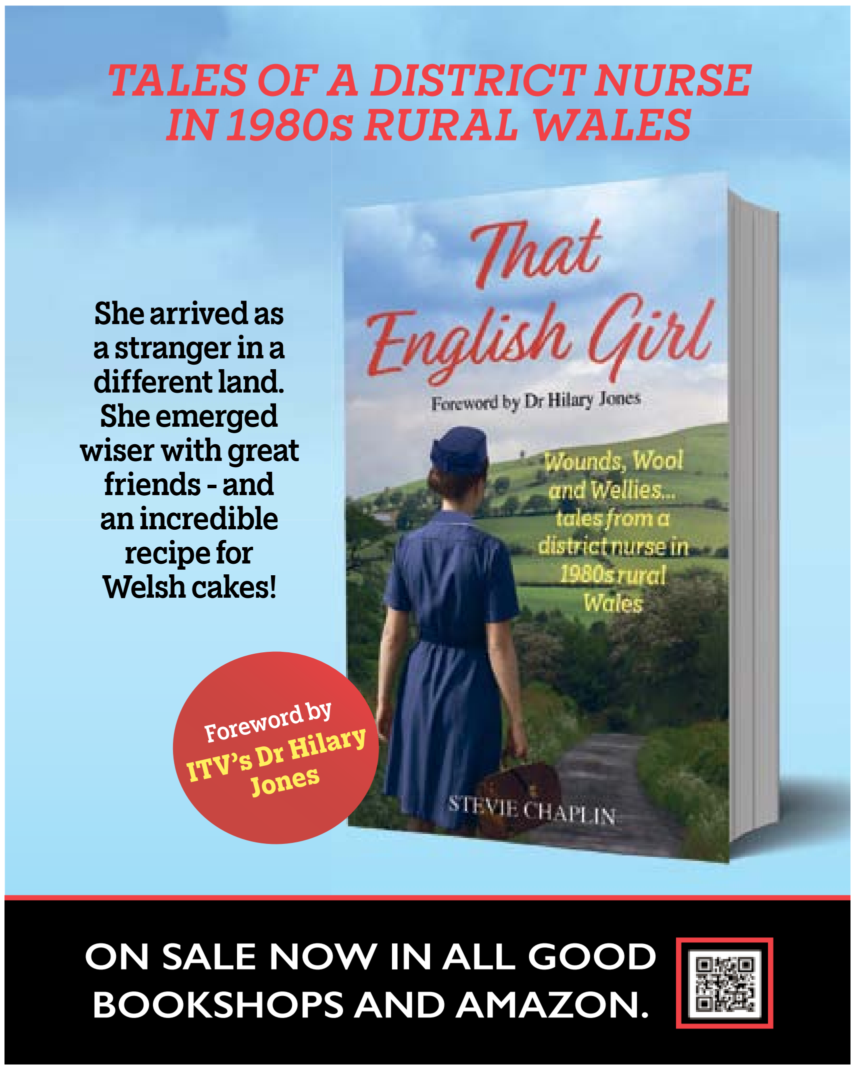

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STEVIE CHAPLIN

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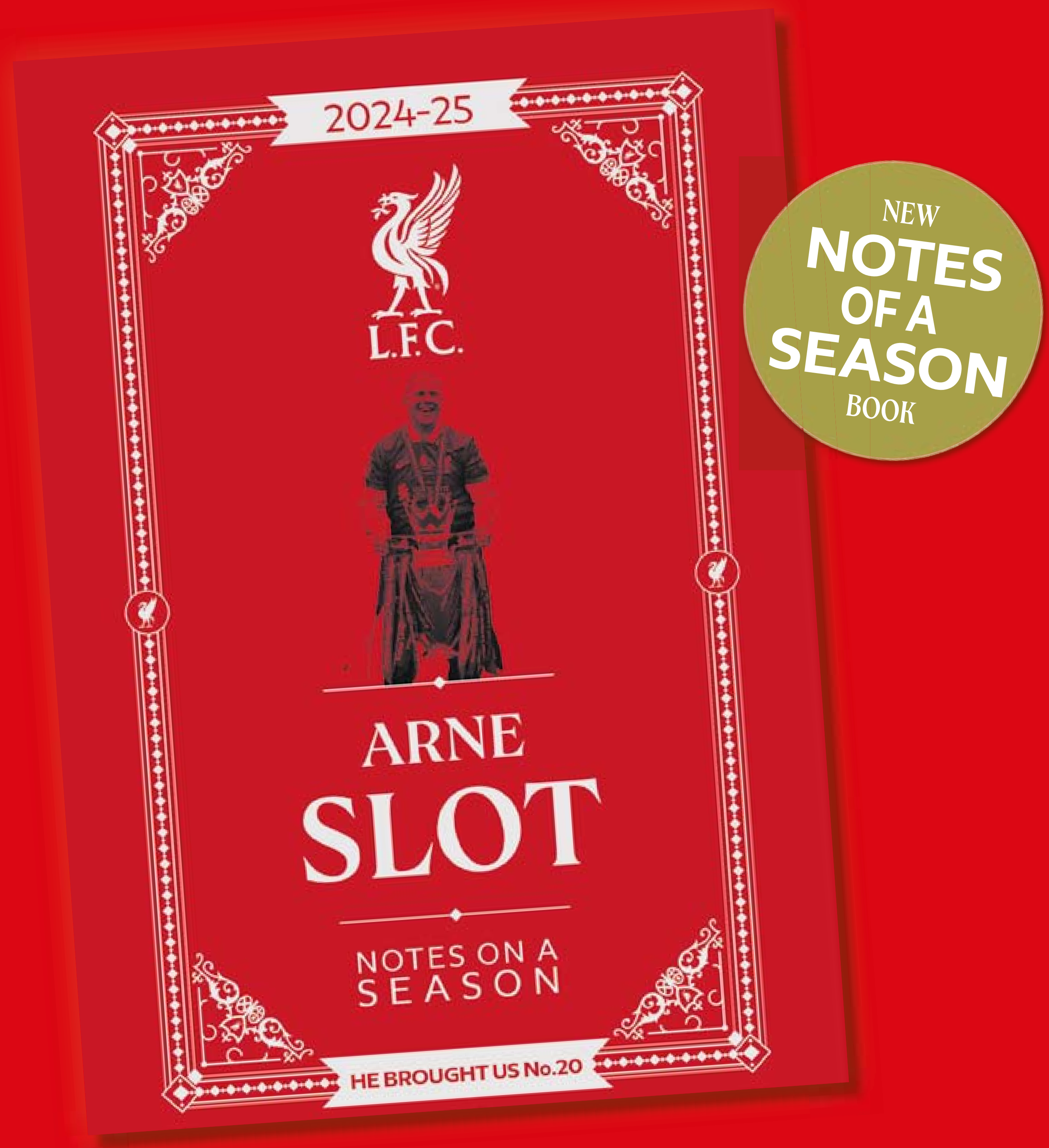
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Barron's Car set to move up the gears

By **The Scout** (Melissa Jones)

CARGIN BHUI (6.30) is fancied to gain an overdue success in the Midnite A Next Generation Betting App Handicap at Southwell.

The Nicola and David Barron, right, trainee got going too late when beaten just a head by Betties Bay when last seen over the six-furlong distance.

My selection is very well-handicapped these days and is entered in a race at Newcastle on Friday too, which suggests connections will try to capitalise while their horse is in top form. The ground is heavy, soft in places at Ayr, which will be no problem for BRAS DOR (12.48) who has shown enough ability to get off the mark over hurdles.

His Ludlow conqueror Un Sens A La Vie has a mark of 130 and the JP McManus-owned selection shaped nicely at Cheltenham prior to that.

The famous green and gold silks can be first again thanks to useful novice chaser MEETMEBYTHESEA (2.18).

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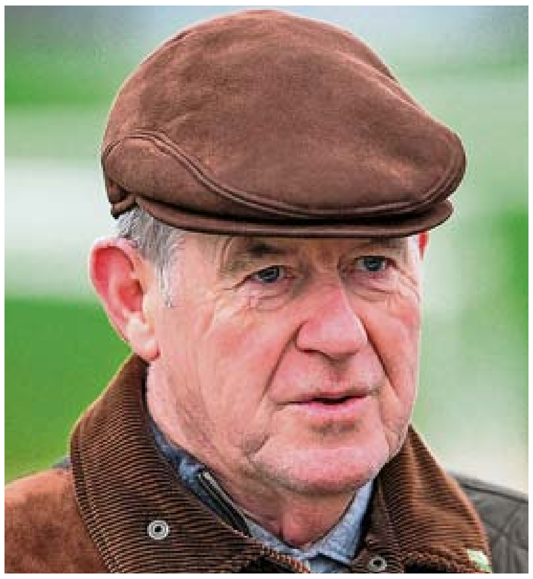
COBDEN'S PLUM JOB

Harry lands role as JP's retained rider

By **Melissa Jones**



DREAM TEAM: Top owner JP McManus (left) has turned to Harry Cobden to be his main jockey

HARRY COBDEN said it was "brilliant" to bag the number one job with JP McManus and succeed some of the all-time greats of National Hunt racing.

The 27-year-old was yesterday named as the Grand National and Gold Cup-winning owner's new retained rider in Britain and Ireland.

Cobden will take over from Mark Walsh, in the job since Barry Geraghty retired in 2020, at the end of May and 20-time champion AP McCoy.

"It's a privilege to have even been considered for the role," said Cobden after picking up both legs of the two-mile novices' hurdle at Hereford aboard Loaded And Locked and Vol Royale. "It's a real honour to follow in the footsteps of the likes of AP McCoy and have some great horses to ride. I'm very much looking forward to next season."

Over the next few months, the sportsman and part-time farmer will prepare for the biggest race-riding job over jumps, having been first jockey at Paul Nicholls' stable since 2018.

Horses in the McManus squad include Gavin Cromwell's reigning Cheltenham Gold Cup champion Inothewayurthinkin, the Dan Skelton-trained Champion Hurdle contender The New Lion and 10-time Grade One hero Jonbon, who has had a long association with both Nico de Boinville and Aidan Coleman.

Cobden, champion conditional in 2016-17 and top of the professional championship in 2023-2024, added: "I couldn't have done this without Paul [Nicholls]. I hope to have further success for him."

NEWCASTLE SKYSPORTSRACING

1.38 MIDNITE BETTING APP HANDICAP
£3,140 (Class 6) 2m 56yds (8 declared)

1	(4)	6221/21-	**TARBAT NESS (J52) (D) (T)** J Berry 7 9-12	**G Mangan**	63
2	(3)	382155-	**BILLY BATHGATE (15) (C&D,F)** Ewan Whillans 10 9-10	**P J McDonald**	65
3	(1)	6L/4L58-	**INSPIRE HOPE (J15)** R Menzies 5 9-7	**A Mullen**	★69
4	(6)	4775-	● **DOLLAR'S DREAM (17)** P Kirby 5 9-7	**C Hardie**	64
5	(5)	6/23522-	**YOUNG MERLIN (J44)** R Menzies 10 9-7	**H Doyle**	64
6	(7)	586-	**TUPERO (29)** D O'Meara 4 9-5	**P Mulrennan**	57
7	(2)	348L8-5	**KHANGAI (7)** T Coyle & K Wood 6 9-2	**T Eaves**	55
8	(8)	LL323-5	**ARCIMBOLDO (10)** M Sowersby 4 8-8	**Rhys Elliott(5)**	59

BLINKERS: Nos. 1, 7 VISOR: Nos. 3, 5 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 3, 5, 6 CHEEK PIECES: No. 6.

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Tarbat Ness, 7-2 Billy Bathgate, Young Merlin, 7 Tupero, 8 Arcimboldo, 10 Dollar's Dream, 16 Inspire Hope, 33 Khangai.

2025: Liberated Lad 7-9-13, Clifford Lee 10-3 (B Brookhouse), drawn (2), 9 ran.

2.08 MIDNITE HANDICAP
£4,711 (6) 6f (7)

1	(2)	943738-	**SIBYL CHARM (54) (C&D)** I Jardine 6 9-9	**A Mullen**	67
2	(3)	111696-	**SPUN TO GOLD (15) (C&D)** J Goldie 5 9-7	**P Mulrennan**	69
3	(7)	6L5132-	● **PROFIT STREET (13) (C,D,F) (T) (S)** James Owen 5 9-6	**P J McDonald**	★71
4	(4)	L63115-	**TEARDROPS (28) (C&D) (T)** R Spencer 4 9-4	**G Wood**	70
5	(6)	0704-13	**PENNY MOUNTAIN (3) (C&D,F)** Gary Rutherford 5 9-4	**H Doyle**	69
6	(1)	L5L84-2	**COURT OF SESSION (9) (T)** P McEntee 7 9-4	**Grace McEntee**	69
7	(5)	53351-4	**BAD HABITS (10)** R Carr 4 9-3	**JP Sullivan**	69

BLINKERS: No. 4 VISOR: Nos. 3, 6 TONGUE STRAP: No. 4.

SP FORECAST: 5-2 Profit Street, 9-2 Penny Mountain, 5 Teardrops, Court Of Session, 13-2 Sibyl Charm, 7 Bad Habits, 10 Spun To Gold.

2025: Tomorrow Day 4-9-9, Paul Mulrennan Evens Fav (M Usher), drawn (7), 7 ran.

VITAL STATISTICS

IN-FORM TRAINERS (last 10 days) B Smart 80% (2 wins and 2 places from 5 runners), R Cowell 80% (1/3/5), Joey Ramsden 71% (1/4/7), R Fahey 62% (1/4/8), James Owen 60% (6/12/30), A Balding 54% (4/3/13), B Pauling 50% (2/4/12), D M Simcock 50% (3/3/12), E Bethell 50% (1/3/8), I Williams 50% (6/7/26), J Parr 50% (1/1/4), P Midgley 50% (1/1/4).

IN-FORM JOCKEYS Jonathan Burke 75% (1 wins and 2 places from 4 runners), Paddy Bradley 64% (3/6/14), Pat Cosgrave 60% (3/6/15), Marco Ghiani 58% (6/5/19), Brian Hughes 50% (1/1/4), James Sullivan 50% (1/2/6).

THE SCOUT

1.38 Dollar's Dream	3.40 Criminal Shore
2.08 Profit Street	4.15 Heavenly Heather
2.38 Maria Da Silva	4.45 Aisling Oscar
3.08 Em Jay Kay	

2.38 BETMGM RESTRICTED MAIDEN STAKES
£5,400 (4) 7f 14yds (11)

1	(5)	L/	**CHIN CHIN GINNY (416)** K Scott 4 9-9	**D Swift**	–
2	(4)	5-	**CLONQUEST (42)** D & N Barron 3 8-12	**S James**	49
3	(1)	7-4	**EVOLVE (12)** R Fahey 3 8-12	**B Garritty**	55
4	(10)		**LAKOTA CHIEF (T)** A Watson 3 8-12	**H Doyle**	–
5	(2)	69223-4	**SOMEBODY (10) (T)** R Spencer 3 8-12	**G Wood**	★65
6	(6)		**STAR OF EMERALD** E Bethell 3 8-10	**P J McDonald**	–
7	(8)		**EVELYN'S GARDEN** K Scott 3 8-7	**G Fairley**	–
8	(3)	06-	● **MARIA DA SILVA (41) (F) (T)** A Balding 3 8-7	**N Currie**	56
9	(7)	95-	**POPULUS (25) (F)** S Hanlon 3 8-5	**A Mullen**	57
10	(9)		**SPIRIT OF TOKYO** P Kirby 3 8-5	**C Hardie**	–
11	(11)	L-	**THEPENDLEBURYFOX (25)** G Tutty 3 8-5	**Rhys Elliott(5)**	16

VISOR: No. 5 TONGUE STRAP: No. 5.

SP FORECAST: 10-3 Somebody, 4 Maria Da Silva, Evolve, 5 Populus, 7 Lakota Chief, 8 Star Of Emerald, 14 Clonquest, 20 Spirit Of Tokyo, Evelyn's Garden, 50 Others.

2025: No corresponding race.

3.08 MIDNITE: BUILT FOR 2026 NOT 2006 HCAP
£3,140 (6) 5f (6)

1	(4)	313738-	● **EM JAY KAY (17) (C,D) (T)** P McEntee 7 9-9	**Grace McEntee**	66
2	(3)	07861-2	**DIGITAL (12) (C&D)** R Carr 8 9-9	**JP Sullivan**	★69
3	(5)	9709L-3	**LA ROCHETTE (12) (F)** T Waggott 5 9-8	**Rhys Elliott(5)**	64
4	(1)	5LL/493-	**HE'S AN ANGEL (14) (C,D)** K Frost 6 9-6	**C Hardie**	68
5	(2)	3L4054-	**AZUCENA (25) (C&D)** S Hanlon 6 9-2	**P Mulrennan**	67
6	(6)	LL969-7	**CLASSY CLARETS (12) (D)** I Jardine 5 9-2	**G Fairley**	65

BLINKERS: Nos. 5, 6
TONGUE STRAP: No. 6
CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 2.

SP FORECAST: 7-4 Digital, 7-2 Em Jay Kay, 4 He's An Angel, 6 La Rochette, 15-2 Azucena, 12 Classy Clarets.

2025: Beaumadier 5-9-8, Jason Hart 7-2 (D Bourke), drawn (4), 10 ran.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Standard. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Paul Mulrennan 14% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** R Fahey 11% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 1.38 Inspire Hope (visor, tongue strap), Young Merlin (tongue strap), Tupero (cheek pieces, tongue strap), 3.08 Azucena (blinkers).

3.40 BETMGM HANDICAP
£4,972 (4) 1m 5yds (7)

1	(6)	634117-	**BOWOOD (53) (C&D)** I Furtado 6 9-9	**Elle-May Croot(5)**	85
2	(1)	346262-	● **CRIMINAL SHORE (88) (D)** D O'Meara 4 9-7	**B Robinson**	86
3	(4)	32952-2	**FLYING FLETCHER (12) (C,F)** R Fahey 5 9-4	**S Gray**	88
4	(3)	11541-3	**THE GREEN MAN (12) (C)** P Kirby 7 9-4	**A Rawlinson**	87
5	(7)	L7535-7	**EVE'S BOY (12)** M Dods 4 9-4	**P Mulrennan**	★89
6	(2)	88122-5	**BAJAN BANDIT (12) (C,D)** P Morris 6 9-3	**H Doyle**	86
7	(5)	65126-7	**LESSAY (11)** P Morris 5 8-11	**JP Sullivan**	87

VISOR: No. 4 TONGUE STRAP: No. 4 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 5, 7.

SP FORECAST: 5-2 Flying Fletcher, 4 The Green Man, 9-2 Criminal Shore, 5 Bajan Bandit, 6 Bowood, 15-2 Eve's Boy, 20 Lessay.

2025: No corresponding race.

4.15 MAKE THE MOVE TO MIDNITE HANDICAP
£4,972 (4) 5f (5)

1	(1)	3L6221-	● **HEAVENLY HEATHER (31) (C,F)** T Waggott 5 9-9	**B McHugh**	92
2	(5)	721383-	**LETHAL NYMPH (22) (C&D)** P Midgley 7 9-9	**P J McDonald**	91
3	(3)	34612-1	**KING'S CROWN (12) (C&D)** M Dods 6 9-3	**Rhys Elliott(5)**	89
4	(4)	2632L4-	**MONKS DREAM (16) (C&D)** T Easterby 5 9-3	**S B Kirrane**	91
5	(2)	2330L7-	**FARANDAWAY (102)** G Tuer 4 8-11	**S James**	★93

TONGUE STRAP: No. 3 CHEEK PIECES: No. 3 HOOD: No. 4.

SP FORECAST: 6-4 Heavenly Heather, 10-3 King's Crown, 7-2 Lethal Nymph, 9-2 Monks Dream, 12 Farandaway.

2025: Mondammej 8-9-5, Cam Hardie 3-1 JtFav (A Brittain), drawn (1), 7 ran.

4.45 BETMGM.CO.UK APPRENTICE HANDICAP
£4,187 (6) 7f 14yds (8)

1	(1)	L31111-	● **AISLING OSCAR (24) (C&D,F)** A Keatley 5 9-9	**C J Whiteley(5)**	69
2	(7)	1L430-5	**BELIEVE IN LIES (12) (D)** D & N Barron 5 9-6	**L Chalkley**	72
3	(6)	641451-	**WYVERN (15) (C&D)** P Morris 7 9-6	**A Redman(3)**	70
4	(8)	575579-	**AMAYSMONT (17) (C,D)** K Frost 9 9-6	**Doubtful**	66
5	(2)	LOL83-2	**PALLAS LORD (12) (C&D)** D Whillans 8 9-6	**J Dickson**	68
6	(3)	77466-1	**MOYOWASI (10) (D) (T)** I Williams 4 9-5	**M Slater**	70
7	(4)	LL207-3	**SOVEREIGN CLASS (12)** G Tuer 4 9-2	**J Bradnam**	★74
8	(5)	228524-	**RAIN CAP (43) (D)** J Riches 9 9-1	**K S McHugh(3)**	69

VISOR: No. 8 TONGUE STRAP: No. 5 CHEEK PIECES: No. 3.

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Aisling Oscar, 3 Wyvern, 9-2 Moyowasi, 6 Pallas Lord, 10 Believe In Lies, Sovereign Class, Rain Cap.

2025: No corresponding race.

BEATEN FAVOURITES: 2.08 Teardrops(hcp). **DRAW:** High numbers have a slight advantage over 5f. **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Maria Da Silva** (2.38) 303 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 2.38 **Populus** from Mrs A Duffield to S Hanlon. 3.08 **Azucena** from Mrs A Duffield to S Hanlon.

RESULTS AND PRICES

HEREFORD: Soft

1.00–ITHAKA (F Mitchell, 10-1) 1; Illogical Logic (5-1) 2; Just In A Bit (10-3 fav) 3. H'cap 11 ran. 4l, 4¼l. (R Potter). Tote: £11.00; pl £2.00, £1.60, £2.10. exacta: £74.70. tricast: £210.87. trifecta: £263.00. CSF: £64.98. Non-runner: Innisfree Lass.

1.30–LOADED AND LOCKED (H Cobden, 2-1 2nd fav) 1; Glancing Jack (20-1) 2; Western Cross (66-1) 3. 14 ran. 2½l, 1½l. (E Lavelle; 6-5 fav Looping D'arc). Tote: £3.00; pl £1.60, £2.60, £14.00. exacta: £57.70. trifecta: £1801.80. CSF: £39.85.

2.00–VOL ROYALE (H Cobden, evens fav) 1; Aguellid (11-10 2nd fav) 2; Lord Virginia (22-1) 3. 12 ran. ¾l, 14l. (K Woollacott). Tote: £2.20; pl £1.10, £1.10, £5.00. exacta: £3.70. trifecta: £36.40. CSF: £2.74. Non-runners: Both Of Us, Lyric.

2.30–RODNEY (C Deutsch, 3-1 fav) 1; Soldierofthestorm (6-1) 2; Pepe Le Moko (13-2) 3. H'cap 11 ran. 4¼l, 16l. (Kerry Lee). Tote: £4.00; pl £1.80, £2.60, £2.20. exacta: £25.90. tricast: £113.79. trifecta: £138.20. CSF: £23.23.

3.00–BOLLIN THOU (S Bowen, 1-2 fav) 1; Smart Bucks (15-2) 2; Shorten Sassy (5-1 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 7 ran. 21l, 5l. (Nick Scholfield). Tote: £1.50; pl £1.30, £2.90. exacta: £5.90. tricast: £10.81. trifecta: £10.20. CSF: £5.71. Non-runners: Briery Butterfly, Happy Returns, Jewel Eyed Judy, Mr Griffiths, Vengeance.

3.30–JAMAICAINE (C O'Farrell, 5-4 fav) 1; Gower Spirit (15-2) 2; Jessie Jump Jet (25-1) 3. H'cap 13 ran. 5l, 3l. (N Mulholland). Tote: £2.25; pl £1.30, £3.60, £8.20. exacta: £17.50. tricast: £182.95. trifecta: £394.40. CSF: £12.71. Non-runner: Prairie Queen.

4.00–THAT'LL BE OXO (T Bellamy, 11-2) 1; Loch Ness Pineau (9-4 fav) 2; Cool Customer (16-5 2nd fav) 3. 10 ran. nk, 1¼l. (K Bailey & M Nicholls). Tote: £6.50; pl £1.80, £1.50, £1.10. exacta: £22.10. trifecta: £78.70. CSF: £18.53. Non-runner: Mysti Meadow.

Placepot: £21.00
(Race 1) 2, 7, 6; (2) 7, 5, 10; (3) 1, 2, 8; (4) 3, 2, 6; (5) 7, 11; (6) 9, 2, 6;
Quadpot: £2.90

LINGFIELD: Standard

12.40–MICHAELA'S BOY (L Morris, 5-2 jt fav) 1; Almaty Star (5-2 jt fav) 2; Diomed Spirit (18-5) 3. H'cap 7 ran. ¾l, 1l. (R Cowell). Tote: £3.50; pl £1.60, £1.80. exacta: £9.10. trifecta: £43.00. CSF: £9.17.

1.10–NUNC EST BIBENDUM (L Edmunds, 4-11 fav) 1; Young Endless (12-1) 2; Prince Quattro (3-1 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 4 ran. 3¾l, 4½l. (G & J Moore). Tote: £1.37; exacta: £4.70. trifecta: £5.40. CSF: £5.72.

1.40–TENBOB TOMMY (C Bishop, 2-1 jt fav) 1; Alasrae (2-1 jt fav) 2; Comprador (3-1) 3. 6 ran. nk, shd. (Miss S West). Tote: £3.00; pl £1.70, £1.40. exacta: £5.70. trifecta: £17.10. CSF: £6.12. Non-runner: Pedros Dream.

2.10–BEAUZON (C Bishop, 6-4 fav) 1; Sarabi (25-1) 2; Midnight Call (7-4 2nd fav) 3. 6 ran. 1l, 1l. (I Williams). Tote: £2.60; pl £1.30, £6.10. exacta: £31.10. trifecta: £98.40. CSF: £34.48. Non-runners: Autumn Angel, Call Glory.

2.40–MIGHTY RULER (Kaiya Fraser, 14-1) 1; Jackson Street (3-1) 2; Supernova Steps (9-4 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 7 ran. hd, 1¾l. (M Attwater; 11-5 fav Mount Mogan). Tote: £15.00; pl £4.00, £3.00. exacta: £45.30. tricast: £132.68. trifecta: £191.30. CSF: £55.63. Non-runner: Roman Emperor.

3.10–CELTIC JOHN (P Bradley, 11-4 2nd fav) 1; Taskheer (11-2) 2; Royal Jet (9-4 fav) 3. 11 ran. hd, 1l. (P Phelan). Tote: £3.75; pl £1.50, £1.60, £1.70. exacta: £18.00. trifecta: £55.10. CSF: £17.35. Non-runner: Arlecchino's Rex.

3.40–FORESEEN (M Ghiani, 6-5 fav) 1; H Key Lails (7-2 2nd fav) 2; Repertoire (5-1) 3. H'cap 7 ran. ½l, nk. (A Carroll). Tote: £2.20; pl £1.30, £1.70. exacta: £6.50. tricast: £14.84. trifecta: £18.10. CSF: £5.79. Non-runner: Dandy Khan.

Placepot: £22.00
(Race 1) 1, 3; (2) 1; (3) 2, 3; (4) 3, 7; (5) 3, 1; (6) 2, 10, 9;
Quadpot: £8.00

WOLVERHAMPTON: Standard

5.00–V POWER (Zoe Lewis, 18-1) 1; Grand Duchess Olga (9-1) 2; Fascinating Shadow (5-2 fav) 3. H'cap 10 ran. nk, 4l. (T Faulkner). Tote: £19.00; pl £4.60, £2.80, £1.30. exacta: £193.80. tricast: £552.13. trifecta: £730.50. CSF: £172.39.

5.30–GREY HORIZON (K O'Neill, 11-4 2nd fav) 1; Espona Bay (11-10 fav) 2; Far Too Fizzy (17-2) 3. H'cap 9 ran. ¾l, hd. (S Dixon). Tote: £3.75; pl £1.30, £1.10, £1.90. exacta: £7.10. tricast: £22.09. trifecta: £29.70. CSF: £6.20. Non-runner: Golden Havana.

6.00–ALL MOONSHINE (Jason Watson, 6-4 fav) 1; They All Know Me (4-1) 2; Oceans Five (5-2 2nd fav) 3. 8 ran. ½l, ½l. (A Balding). Tote: £2.50; pl £1.10, £1.80, £1.10. exacta: £8.80. trifecta: £25.40. CSF: £8.53.

6.30–BEAR ROCK (F McManoman, 14-1) 1; Bella Bisbee (7-2 jt fav) 2; The Caribbean (5-1) 3. H'cap 10 ran. ½l, 1½l. (M Mullineaux; 7-2 jtfav Flowstate). Tote: £15.00; pl £4.40, £2.20, £1.30. exacta: £75.70. tricast: £295.03. trifecta: £359.20. CSF: £63.11.

7.00–BECAUSE WE CAN (Georgia Dobie, 15-2) 1; Sailor Batt (3-1 2nd fav) 2; Slack Bob (12-1) 3. H'cap 8 ran. 1l, ½l. (C Cox; 11-8 fav Crown The Future). Tote: £8.80; pl £2.50, £1.10, £2.00. exacta: £32.90. tricast: £270.88. trifecta: £182.60. CSF: £30.47.

7.30–R P MCMURPHY (E Greatrex, 2-1 fav) 1; How's The Guvnor (10-3 2nd fav) 2; Arlecchino's Rex (28-1) 3. H'cap 11 ran. 1¾l, 3¼l. (M Appleby). Tote: £3.00; pl £1.10, £1.90, £7.50. exacta: £7.30. tricast: £153.42. trifecta: £220.70. CSF: £8.79. Non-runner: Strobelight.

8.00–EAGLES WHISTLE (S Gray, 10-11 fav) 1; Desiderata (6-1 jt 2nd fav) 2; Wrist Art (7-1) 3. 9 ran. 1¼l, nk. (D Bourke). Tote: £1.91; pl £1.10, £2.20, £2.50. exacta: £6.40. trifecta: £32.50. CSF: £7.02. Non-runners: Gemini Man, That Lucas Fella.

Placepot: £19.20
(Race 1) 4, 1, 3; (2) 1, 2, 9; (3) 1, 7, 4; (4) 1, 2, 5; (5) 1, 4, 2; (6) 2, 3, 12;
Quadpot: £7.10

AYR RTV

JACKPOT: www.totepoolliveinfo.com

THE SCOUT

12.48 **BRAS D'OR**
1.18 **Just Her Type**
1.48 **Gather Yourself**
2.18 **MEETMEBYTHESEA (nb)**
2.48 **Big Zouk**
3.18 **Mr Lincoln**
3.48 **Diamant Dore**

12.48 NOVICES' HURDLE (GBB RACE) £5,446 (Class 4) 2m (10 declared)

1 3-61 **NEXT TWIST (49) (D,T)** O Murphy 6 11 8........**S Bowen**
2 2-31 **TRIPLE CROWN TED (56) (D)** L Russell & M Scudamore 6 11 8 **D R Fox**
3 6LF **BELVEDERE BHOY (15)** L Russell & M Scudamore 5 11 1 **P W Wadge**
4 2-52 ● **BRAS D'OR (27)(T) (S)** D Pipe 6 11 1........... **J Tudor**
5 L9 **CK O'MARA (43)** R M Smith 5 11 1........... **Ben Smith(7)**
6 8LF **COYLTON KING (11)** I Duncan 6 11 1.................... **R Mania**
7 2-2 **KILNESARE FLIGHT (44)** D McCain 6 11 1..... **B Hughes**
8 2-4 **LUCKIE DEVIL (251)** N Richards 6 11 1............**C Bewley**
9 07-5 **BENNYS JENNY (37)** N Alexander 7 10 8...........**B Lynn**
10 350 **BREAKING GROUND (150)** R M Smith 5 10 8 **N Moscrop**

HOOD: Nos. 1, 8, 10.
W-Factor: Bras D'or (124); Next Twist (116); Triple Crown Ted (107).

SP FORECAST: 15-8 Next Twist, 5-2 Bras D'or, 3 Triple Crown Ted, 6 Kilnesare Flight, 8 Luckie Devil, 50 Bennys Jenny, Coylton King, Belvedere Bhoy, 100 Others.

1.18 EBF MARES' 'NAT HUNT' NOVS' HURDLE £5,446 (4) 2m 4f 100yds (7)

1 131 ● **JUST HER TYPE (30) (D)** M Comley 6 11 12 **T Broughton(5)**
2 2-21 **DREAM SHADOW (54)(T)** F O'Brien 7 11 7... **J J Burke**
3 P-1P **JUST AN ARTIST (45)** N Alexander 5 11 7..........**B Lynn**
4 124 **LETS MINGLE (41) (D)** L Russell & M Scudamore 6 11 7 **Conner McCann(7)**
5 121 **PARK PRINCESS (2)(T)** A Honeyball 6 11 12 ..**Doubtful**
6 2 **LARGY ROSE (52)** R M Smith 6 11 0 .... **Ben Smith(7)**
7 0-36 **ROSES ALL THE WAY (24)** D McCain 7 11 0...**Doubtful**

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 5, 7
HOOD: No. 3.
W-Factor: Dream Shadow (120); Park Princess (117); Lets Mingle (116).

SP FORECAST: 4-7 Dream Shadow, 3 Just Her Type, 10 Lets Mingle, 12 Just An Artist, 20 Largy Rose.

1.48 HANDICAP HURDLE £4,225 (5) 3m 70yds (10)

1 551 **KELVIN FORLONGE (43) (C&D)** L Russell & M Scudamore 6 12 0 **P W Wadge**
2 4-3P **PIAFF BUBBLES (41) (D)** R Menzies 10 11 12...**N Moscrop**
3 1-46 **MONSIEUR LE FUZZ (47) (C&D)** R Menzies 7 11 8 ...**R Chapman**
4 32F **SHOESHINE BOY (17) (C&D)** D Whillans 10 11 5. **Craig Nichol**
5 P53 ● **GATHER YOURSELF (30)** C Collins (IRE) 6 11 3..**S Bowen**
6 62L **MAURA JEANNE (14) (C&D)** I Duncan 9 11 2..**A Doyle(3)**
7 532 **HOLLY BIRD (28)** A M Thomson 7 10 13........ **B Hughes**
8 10-4 **BETTER BE DEFINITE (66) (C&D)** N Alexander 8 10 10 **J Hamilton**
9 PLP **BLUE INDIGO (34)** Gary Rutherford 6 10 6... **E Austin(5)**
10 L8-L **NAE BOTHER AT A' (219)** N Alexander **8 10 2B Lynn**

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 3, 4, 6 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 3, 6, 7.
W-Factor: Shoeshine Boy (107); Maura Jeanne (106); Piaff Bubbles (105).

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Kelvin Forlonge, 5-2 Gather Yourself, 4 Holly Bird, 8 Shoeshine Boy, 10 Piaff Bubbles, 14 Others.

2.18 'CHASING EXCELLENCE' NOVS' CHASE £7,922 (3) 2m 110yds (5)

1 1-21 **FINGLE BRIDGE (35)(T)** O Murphy 8 11 8.......**S Bowen**
2 13-1 ● **MEETMEBYTHESEA (59)(T)** B Pauling 6 11 8.. **B R Jones**
3 3F/2-**BIG JOHN WAYNE (454)** L Russell & M Scudamore 8 11 2 **D R Fox**
4 67L **DEDICATED HERO (18)** A M Thomson 7 11 2.**C Bewley**
5 1U/2 **FROM THE CLOUDS (73)** L Russell & M Scudamore 9 11 2 **Jack Power(5)**

TONGUE STRAP: No. 5.
W-Factor: Fingle Bridge (144); Meetmebythesea (142); From The Clouds (130).

SP FORECAST: 11-10 Fingle Bridge, 11-8 Meetmebythesea, 12 Dedicated Hero, 14 From The Clouds, Big John Wayne.

2.48 HANDICAP CHASE £4,753 (5) 3m 20yds (9)

1 317 **I SEE THE SEA (16)(T)** C Kellett 7 12 0 ....**Doubtful**
2 P-53 ● **BIG ZOUK (33)** N Richards 7 11 12.............. **B Hughes**
3 7-27 **TOROSAY (44) (D)** L Russell & M Scudamore 8 11 8 **D R Fox**
4 L-32 **JIRKO (43)** N Alexander 7 11 5.............................**B Lynn**
5 487 **ROB ROY MACGREGOR (73)** A M Thomson 8 10 13 **P W Wadge**
6 1/PP **MAID OF HOUXTY (44)** D Whillans 11 10 9....**Craig Nichol**
7 6-PP **KINGSTON ROCK (34)** Gary Rutherford 8 10 7.. **E Austin(5)**
8 PPP **EUCHAN FALLS (11)** R M Smith **9 10 2**........**N Moscrop**
9 6L0 **MUROOR (73)** Lizzie Quinlan **13 10 2**.....**Sean Quinlan**

BLINKERS: No. 1 VISOR: No. 8 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 6, 8 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 3, 5, 9.
W-Factor: Jirko (103); I See The Sea (102); Torosay (101).

SP FORECAST: 2 Jirko, 9-4 Big Zouk, 7-2 Torosay, 7 Rob Roy Macgregor, 14 Kingston Rock, 20 Euchan Falls, 33 Others.

3.18 HANDICAP HURDLE £5,281 (4) 2m (10)

1 1-95 **THEREISNODOUBT (38) (C&D)** L Russell & M Scudamore 13 12 0 **D R Fox**
2 361 **HE'S BRESILIAN (33) (F)** J O'Keeffe 6 11 13 **Sean Quinlan**
3 3L-5 **DANCE THIEF (73) (C&D)** R M Smith 8 11 10 **Ben Smith(7)**
4 42/L **JIAIR MADRIK (35)** D McCain 7 11 10 ....**T Gillard**
5 5-36 **TWO AULD PALS (46) (D)** L Russell & M Scudamore 8 11 9 **G Walkingshaw(10)**
6 3-L8 ● **MR LINCOLN (15)** I Jardine 6 11 8.............. **B Hughes**
7 1P2 **TREAD SOFTLY NOW (15) (C&D)** I Duncan 7 11 5....**A Doyle(3)**
8 L-PL **SAO CARLOS (30) (D)** Lizzie Quinlan 8 11 5...**P J Kavanagh**
9 31-P **DON OCCHETTI (11)** W Young Jnr 8 11 2..**C Rabbitt(3)**
10 465 **PLATIN MOON (30)** N Alexander 5 11 0..............**B Lynn**

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 8, 9 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 7
HOOD: No. 4.
W-Factor: Platin Moon (115); Sao Carlos (114); Thereisnodoubt (110).

SP FORECAST: 5-2 Tread Softly Now, 10-3 He's Bresilian, 5 Platin Moon, 7 Dance Thief, 8 Two Auld Pals, Thereisnodoubt, 10 Mr Lincoln, 25 Jiair Madrik, 33 Others.

3.48 OPEN NH FLAT RACE (GBB RACE) £2,451 (5) 2m (8)

1 2-1 **COCONUT MAN (62) (C&D)** L Russell & M Scudamore 5 11 11 **Jack Power(5)**
2 F ● **DIAMANT DORE (52)(T) (S)** A Keatley 5 11 4 . **B Hughes**
3 564 **DUBLINOFFICECALLIN (28)** Ewan Whillans 5 11 4 **Craig Nichol**
4 2 **KINGSMAN MAIL (62)** N Alexander 6 11 4..........**B Lynn**
5 21 **MCELHATTAN (51)** D McCain 5 11 4..................**T Gillard**
6 **MELBOURNE GHOST** D Whillans 5 11 4....**Sean Quinlan**
7 **OOR WISH** N Alexander 6 10 11.......................**J Hamilton**
8 **BREWDOG** R M Smith 4 10 5 ....**N Moscrop**

W-Factor: Kingsman Mail (106); Coconut Man (103); Dublinofficecallin (91).

SP FORECAST: 2 Coconut Man, 3 Kingsman Mail, 7-2 Diamant Dore, 4 Mcelhattan, 20 Dublinofficecallin, Oor Wish, 25 Melbourne Ghost, 33 Brewdog.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Heavy. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Derek Fox 17% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** I Jardine 12% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 2.48 Euchan Falls (tongue strap), 3.18 Jiair Madrik (hood), Don Occhetti (tongue strap), 12.48 Luckie Devil (hood), Breaking Ground (hood). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 2.48 Big Zouk(hcp hdl). 3.18 Platin Moon(hcp hdl). **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Gather Yourself** (1.48) Ireland; **Park Princess** (1.18) 440 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 1.18 **Largy Rose** from S Crawford in Ireland to R M Smith. 1.48 **Nae Bother At A'** from Gary Rutherford to N Alexander. 3.48 **Diamant Dore** from Gerald Quinn to A Keatley, **Mcelhattan** from Mark J Scallan to D McCain.

SOUTHWELL SSR

THE SCOUT

4.30 **Emperor's Son**
5.00 **Laurens Dream**
5.30 **Pink Socks**
6.00 **Shiplake**
6.30 **CARGIN BHUI (nap)**
7.00 **Love Alive**
7.30 **Atomic Force**
8.00 **Machete**

4.30 MIDNITE APPRENTICE HANDICAP £3,716 (Cl 5) 4f 214yds (9 dec)

1 (4) 47-3 **BRAZILIAN BELLE (7) (D)** M Dods 4 9 9 ....**A Jary**
2 (5) 23-1 ● **EMPEROR'S SON (11) (D,F)** R Fahey 5 9 9 **W Fentiman(3)**
3 (3) 55-3 **BEAUMADIER (11) (D)** M Loughnane 6 9 7 **Harry Vigors(7)**
4 (7) 62-1 **POPULAR DREAM (7) (C&D)** D Shaw 6 9 7(5ex) **Taryn Langley(3)**
5 (2) 444-**HOSTILITY (16)** D O'Meara 4 9 6 . **Mason Paetel(3)**
6 (6) 342- **BIRKENHEAD (108) (C&D)** P Midgley 9 9 5 **O McSweeney**
7 (1) 01-5 **BASHOLO (11) (D)** T & S Barclay 7 9 5 .. **Z Wheatley**
8 (8) 155- **SAM'S HOPE (26) (C&D)** Martin Dunne 6 9 4 **Lillie Dingle(10)**
9 (9) LL-7 **HONOUR YOUR DREAMS (11) (D)** M Attwater 6 9 4 **J Dace(3)**

VISOR: No. 2 TONGUE STRAP: No. 8 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 5, 6.
W-F: Hostility (82); Beaumadier (79); Emperor's Son (78).

SP FORECAST: 5-2 Popular Dream, 7-2 Emperor's Son, 5 Brazilian Belle, 6 Beaumadier, 7 Birkenhead, 10 Others.

5.00 BETMGM CLASSIFIED STKS (DIV 1) £3,140 (6) 7f 14yds (11)

1 (5) 7-12 **CALL GLORY (3) (C) (S)** I Williams 5 10 0 .....**R Kavanagh(5)**
2 (4) 84-9**EVOLUIR (4) (C,D)** M Hammond 5 9 9 ...**A Brookes(3)**
3 (1) 9LL- **FOR WHAT ITS WORTH (22)** M Wigham 4 9 9 **J F Egan**
4 (11) 5LL- **GALETTE (160) (F)** J Portman 4 9 9........**O Tubb(5)**
5 (2) 72-5 **HEADSHOT (3) (C)** A Carroll 8 9 9....**Myla Coppins(7)**
6 (6) 6-62● **LAURENS DREAM (4) (D)** M & D Easterby 4 9 9 **Joanna Mason**
7 (10) 60-9**LILAC WOOD (9)** D Shaw 4 9 9................ **L Edmunds**
8 (3) 85-7**MY BOY JACK (10)** K Frost 7 9 9..**Harry Vigors(7)**
9 (8) 80-0**OUR NICOLA (4)** D & N Barron 4 9 9....**C Rodriguez**
10 (9) L78- **PURPENDICULAR (27)** M Murphy 4 9 9....**R Hornby**
11 (7) 690-**ZARAMARA (82)** M Appleby 4 9 9. **Liam Wright(5)**

TONGUE STRAP: No. 10 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 3, 4, 6, 9.
W-F: Headshot (59); Call Glory (57); Laurens Dream (55).

SP FORECAST: 6-5 Call Glory, 9-4 Laurens Dream, 5 Headshot, 10 Evoluir, 16 My Boy Jack, 25 Others.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Standard. Left Handed. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):** Jason Hart 13% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26):** M Appleby 10% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 5.00 Our Nicola (cheek pieces), For What Its Worth (cheek pieces), 7.30 Ziggy's Triton (visor). **BEATEN FAVOURITES:** 4.30 Sam's Hope(hcp). 5.00 Call Glory. 6.30 Cargin Bhui(hcp). 7.30 Atomic Force(hcp). 8.00 Charlie's Choice(hcp). **DRAW:** No advantage. **LONGEST TRAVELLER: Delagate This Lord** (6.30) 204 miles. **STABLE SWITCH:** 4.30 **Basholo** from Mrs Stella Barclay to T & S Barclay. 5.30 **Captain Pickles** from Mrs Stella Barclay to T & S Barclay. 6.00 **Candonomore** from T Easterby to S C Williams. 7.00 **Love Alive** from R Hannon to Martin Dunne, **Marianne Mozart** from C Johnston to I Mohammed, **Starfinch** from J Harrington in Ireland to Harry Eustace.

5.30 BETMGM CLASSIFIED STKS (DIV 2) £3,140 (6) 7f 14yds (10)

1 (4) 3-41 ● **PINK SOCKS (3)** I Williams 7 9 13 ....**P Bradley**
2 (5) 042-**AIM FOR THE BULL (26)** M Murphy 4 9 9 .... **R Hornby**
3 (9) 467- **AMERICAN ROSE (71) (D)** H Evans 6 9 9........**W Cox**
4 (8) L8-8 **ANIFICAS BEAUTY (3) (D)** P Winks 7 9 9 ..... **J Hart**
5 (2) L65- **CAPTAIN PICKLES (85)** T & S Barclay 4 9 9 **S Donohoe**
6 (3) 658-**EMBARKED (48) (C&D)** S Dixon 8 9 9........**K O'Neill**
7 (1) 525-**KODEBREAKER (25) (C&D)** M Herrington 7 9 9 **Z Wheatley(3)**
8 (7) 74-9 **NUTCRACKER (9)** A Carroll 4 9 9............... **W Carson**
9 (10) 6L8- **SHARP CALL (28)** M & D Easterby 4 9 9 **Joanna Mason**
10 (6) 327- **WRATH OF HECTOR (84) (C&D,F)** Jessica Macey 9 9 9 **L Edmunds**

BLINKERS: No. 9 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 7, 10.
W-Factor: Pink Socks (59); American Rose (58); Kodebreaker (57).

SP FORECAST: 11-8 Pink Socks, 4 Aim For The Bull, 15-2 Embarked, 8 Wrath Of Hector, 10 Captain Pickles, Kodebreaker, 12 American Rose, 25 Sharp Call, 33 Others.

6.00 BETMGM.CO.UK HANDICAP £4,972 (4) 7f 14yds (6)

1 (4) 781- **INVITED (13) (C,D,F)** G Boughey 4 9 11 **P Cosgrave**
2 (2) 38-6**SECRET GUEST (12)** B Smart 6 9 7................**D Nolan**
3 (6) 1L2- **GOOD MORNING ALEX (202) (C)** D & N Barron 5 9 7 **C Rodriguez**
4 (3) 361- ● **SHIPLAKE (53) (C&D)** K P De Foy 4 9 6 **R Scott**
5 (5) 125- **CANDONOMORE (78) (D)** S C Williams 5 9 4 **M Ghiani**
6 (1) 80-2**THE TURPINATOR (7) (D)** G Tuer 9 9 1....**O Stammers**

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 5 HOOD: No. 4.
W-Factor: Candonomore (95); The Turpinator (94); Invited (93).

SP FORECAST: 10-11 Invited, 5-2 Shiplake, 10 The Turpinator, Good Morning Alex, 12 Secret Guest, 14 Candonomore.

6.30 MIDNITE HANDICAP £4,711 (6) 6f 16yds (12)

1 (3) L4-1 **SHOWTIME MAHOMES (7) (C&D)** G Tuer 7 9 9(4ex) **O Stammers**
2 (1) 7L1- **OTTAWA (26) (C&D)** J Parr 4 9 7..............**D Keenan**
3 (9) 96-2 ● **CARGIN BHUI (11)** D & N Barron 5 9 7 **C Rodriguez**
4 (6) 3L8-**PICKERING CASTLE (49)** D M Simcock 4 9 6 **L Morris**
5 (12) 219- **EARLY RELEASE (17) (C&D)** P Evans 4 9 6 **Doubtful**
6 (8) 235- **SUB THIRTEEN (17) (D)** A Carroll 5 9 5... **W Carson**
7 (7) 348-**DELAGATE THIS LORD (71) (C&D,T)** .... Mr W G Harrison 12 9 5 **Doubtful**
8 (11) 41-4 **GUSTAV GRAVES (11) (D)** D Shaw 8 9 5 **Joanna Mason**
9 (4) 747- **DAPPERLING (26) (D)** S Dixon 5 9 4..........**K O'Neill**
10 (5) 392-**MINNESOTA LAD (26) (D)** I Furtado 6 9 4.**D Nolan**
11 (10) 38-4**GOOD EARTH (11) (D)** M Herrington 9 9 4..**C Planas(3)**
12 (2) 222-**CLOVER TIME (17)** M Appleby 4 9 4.............**R Havlin**

TONGUE STRAP: No. 2
CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 12.
W-Factor: Good Earth (79); Early Release (78); Pickering Castle (77).

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Cargin Bhui, 6 Clover Time, Showtime Mahomes, 7 Ottawa, Minnesota Lad, 10 Sub Thirteen, Gustav Graves, Good Earth, 20 Others.

7.00 FILLIES' NOVICE STAKES £5,400 (4) 6f 16yds (12)

1 (9) 6- **AVALON MILL MEHMAS (42)** N Kent 4 10 2 **D Costello**
2 (6) 5- **MARIANNE MOZART (360)** I Mohammed 4 10 2 **M Ghiani**
3 (10) 2- **AUTUMN AFFAIR (36) (F)** Harry Eustace 3 9 0 **C Bishop**
4 (1) 446- ● **LOVE ALIVE (136)** Martin Dunne 3 9 0 **D Keenan**
5 (4) **MAYBE SOON** T Tate 3 9 0............................ **A Elliott**
6 (11) **PANTHEON PRINCESS** J Osborne 3 9 0. **S Osborne**
7 (5) 57- **POWER OF CHORA (25)** Joey Ramsden 3 9 0..**L Edmunds**
8 (12) **SEQUENTIAL** Martin Dunne 3 9 0................ **L Morris**
9 (2) 7- **SIRHANA (40)** R Fahey 3 9 0...........**W Fentiman(5)**
10 (3) L- **STARFINCH (143)** Harry Eustace 3 9 0...**Kaiya Fraser**
11 (7) 65- **TABBY KAT (26)** J Chapple-Hyam 3 9 0 **A Egan(7)**
12 (8) **THUNDER PANTS** R Fahey 3 9 0........ **O McSweeney**

W-Factor: Love Alive (64); Autumn Affair (62); Marianne Mozart (56).

SP FORECAST: 2 Autumn Affair, 11-4 Love Alive, 10 Maybe Soon, Thunder Pants, Pantheon Princess, 12 Marianne Mozart, 14 Tabby Kat, 16 Starfinch, 20 Others.

7.30 MIDNITE HANDICAP £7,956 (3) 4f 214yds (7)

1 (1) 113- **ALLIGATOR ALLEY (24) (C&D)** R Carr 9 9 9 **L Morris**
2 (3) 561- **PADDY'S DAY (35) (D,F)** N Tinkler 6 9 7 .... **A Jary(3)**
3 (6) 11-2 **ZIGGY'S TRITON (9) (C&D)** D O'Meara 4 9 6.. **D Nolan**
4 (2) L53- ● **ATOMIC FORCE (66) (D)** E Bethell 7 9 5... **Harry Vigors(7)**
5 (4) 008- **SPRING IS SPRUNG (112) (C,D)** P Midgley 7 9 0.... **J Hart**
6 (7) 153- **FIDELIUS (13) (D)** R Cowell 5 8 13 ....**M Ghiani**
7 (5) 89-3 **JUAN LES PINS (12)** M Appleby 9 8 8........**H Davies**

VISOR: No. 3.
W-Factor: Ziggy's Triton (102); Spring Is Sprung (101); Atomic Force (100).

SP FORECAST: 2 Alligator Alley, 4 Fidelius, 9-2 Atomic Force, 5 Ziggy's Triton, 13-2 Paddy's Day, 10 Juan Les Pins, 20 Spring Is Sprung.

8.00 MIDNITE GAME HANDICAP £4,972 (4) 1m 4f 14yds (6)

1 (3) 21-2 ● **MACHETE (12) (F)** D O'Meara 7 10 0.........**M Winn**
2 (2) 521- **CANNON ROCK (24) (C&D,F)** James Owen 6 9 9 **P Cosgrave**
3 (1) 521- **CODIAK (43) (D)** E Bethell 4 9 8...........**C Rodriguez**
4 (4) 95-2 **ROBUSTO (12) (D,F)** E J-Houghton 6 9 7...**Harry Vigors(7)**
5 (5) 2-13 **CHARLIE'S CHOICE (3) (C&D)** D M Simcock 6 9 6 **Taryn Langley(5)**
6 (6) 343-**MOON SNIPER (14) (D)** W Muir & C Grassick 4 8 12 **L Edmunds**

BLINKERS: Nos. 2, 3, 4.
W-Factor: Robusto (90); Moon Sniper (89); Charlie's Choice (88).

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Machete, 11-4 Codiak, 10-3 Cannon Rock, 6 Charlie's Choice, 8 Robusto, 14 Moon Sniper.

GOSSIP FROM THE GALLOPS

West: BRAS D'OR (12.48 Ayr)
North: DIAMANT DORE (3.48 Ayr)
Newmarket: PROFIT STREET (2.08 Newcastle)
Midlands: CALL GLORY (5.00 Southwell)

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Sao Carlos...............A 3.18
Secret Guest........... S 6.00
Sequential............... S 7.00
Sharp Call................ S 5.30
Shiplake.................. S 6.00
Shoeshine Boy.........A 1.48
Showtime Mahomes . S 6.30
Sibyl Charm.............N 2.08
Sirhana.................... S 7.00
Somebody................N 2.38
Sovereign Class.......N 4.45
Spirit Of Tokyo........N 2.38
Spring Is Sprung...... S 7.30
Spun To Gold............N 2.08
Star Of Emerald.......N 2.38
Starfinch................. S 7.00
Sub Thirteen............ S 6.30
Tabby Kat................ S 7.00
Tarbat Ness.............N 1.38
Teardrops................N 2.08
The Green Man.........N 3.40
The Turpinator......... S 6.00
Thependleburyfox....N 2.38
Thereisnodoubt.......A 3.18
Thunder Pants......... S 7.00
Torosay....................A 2.48
Tread Softly Now.....A 3.18
Triple Crown Ted......A12.48
Tupero.....................N 1.38
Two Auld Pals..........A 3.18
Wrath Of Hector...... S 5.30
Wyvern.....................N 4.45
Young Merlin............N 1.38
Zaramara................. S 5.00
Ziggy's Triton.......... S 7.30

Philly's Super reign is ended by McCaffrey

PATCHED-UP 49ERS DIG DEEP

BY **KEITH WEBSTER**

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

CHRISTIAN McCaffrey caught the touchdown pass that ended Philadelphia's reign as NFL kings, and then praised San Francisco's never-say-die attitude.

McCaffrey pulled in a touchdown pass on the opening play of the fourth quarter to put the 49ers ahead, 17-16, in the opening round of the play-offs.

And after the defending Super Bowl champion Eagles regained the lead, 19-17, he broke fans' hearts in the City of Brotherly Love when he scored again with three minutes left for a 23-19 win.

"This team is never out of the fight," said McCaffrey, whose side now face Seattle. "A lot of [injuries] happened to us throughout the year. Some unfortunate things happened to us but we don't blink.

"We are consistent every day and that is something that when you are on a good team, and a high character team, we keep fighting for each other."

San Francisco have been cursed all season by injuries and suffered a hammer blow in this game when George Kittle tore an Achilles.

"He's the heart and soul of this team," said McCaffrey. "Even going through something he had to go through, he's the first guy in the locker room, smiling and happy for his team-mates.

"When you lose a leader like that, you never really lose him because his presence is still in this locker room, his energy is still here. We're going to play for him the rest of the way."

Buffalo booked their place in the second round when Josh Allen (left) survived a bruising battle in a 27-24 win against Jacksonville.

Allen had to leave the game three times to be checked for concussion, as well as knee and hand injuries, but he battled through to score the winning touchdown a minute from the end to set up a trip to Denver.

Head coach Sean McDermott, said: "It trickles down from him in terms of the team's toughness. When your quarterback is that type of warrior, that type of competitor, from a leadership standpoint it goes through the whole team."

New England are also through to next weekend thanks to their first play-off victory in seven years, after they overcame the LA Chargers, 16-3.

Quarterback Drake Maye struggled in his first play-off game but threw the only touchdown pass of the game in the fourth quarter to Hunter Henry to seal the win.

"Proud of this team," Maye said. "We never doubted it. It wasn't pretty, that's for sure. I didn't throw it very well. We did what we had to do and that's what it takes in the play-offs."

HOLD ON TIGHT
McCaffrey (below) clings on to decide close clash

JUST THE START
Itoje is now back after a breather since November

Itoje's locked in for Six Nations

RUGBY UNION

BY **ADAM HATHAWAY**

MARO ITOJE confirmed he is fit and firing for the Six Nations after returning from a lay-off with his first start since November.

The England captain had come off the bench a week ago for Saracens against Leicester, but was there from the off in the Londoners' epic 20-14 Champions Cup win against Toulouse on Sunday.

Before the Tigers clash the lock had not been seen since going off with a knee problem late on in England's 27-23 defeat of Argentina at Twickenham that rounded off an unbeaten autumn for Steve Borthwick's men.

The head coach names his Six Nations squad on January 23, before a training camp in Spain ahead of the opener at home against Wales on February 7.

Itoje said: "My right knee was grumbling for a while. By the end of the autumn, the grumbling turned into crying, so I had to have a little time off to let it recover.

"No one wants to be injured but it was a good opportunity for me to get the knee right and get myself right.

"I am more than happy to be back with the team."

Saracens' win tees up a trip to Glasgow on Sunday, where a point would guarantee a last-16 spot but director of rugby Mark McCall wants more.

McCall said: "I know if we win next week it gives us a chance to be second and if you come first or second you get a home draw. It is very, very important we back this win up."

Newcastle Red Bulls have continued their spending spree by confirming the signing of back row Sam Graham from Northampton.

The 28-year-old was a member of Saints Prem-winning side in 2024 and will leave this summer after four years in the Midlands.

FRESH FACES JOIN CHAMPS

ENGLAND head coach John Mitchell has named 11 uncapped players in a 47-strong squad for the first training camp since winning the Women's Rugby World Cup.

The Red Roses, who beat Canada 33-13 in the final on September 27, host Ireland on April 11 at the Allianz Stadium Twickenham in the opening round of the 2026 Six Nations.

Jasmine Adonri, Steph Else, Keevy Fitzpatrick, Haidee Head, Hayley Jones, Haineala Lutui, Annabel Meta and Nicole Wythe (below) are uncapped forwards. Millie David, Sophie Hopkins and Sarah Parry are potential debutants in the backs.

The group contains all of England's World Cup-winning squad, aside from retired pair, Emily Scarratt and Abby Dow.

Mitchell said: "2025 will go down in history for rugby in this country.

"This camp will focus on resetting our culture to win."

ALLEN RISES TO THE OCCASION

Mark breaks from food poisoning with gutsy display to leave Williams feeling sick

BY **SHANE MACDERMOTT**

MARK ALLEN climbed off his sick bed to send golden oldie Mark Williams packing at the Masters.

Two-time winner Williams, who turns 51 in March, became the oldest player to compete at the illustrious invitation event since 1989.

But world No.10 Allen, who has suffered with a bad bout of food poisoning in the build-up, secured his spot in an 11th Masters quarter-final with a 6-2 walloping of wayward Williams at Alexandra Palace.

The 2018 Masters champion, who won five frames on the bounce, said: "I couldn't prepare at all because I've been in bed all week with food poisoning.

"I was always going to play, but I might have needed to wear a nappy for TV! It hasn't been a good week.

"I was lying in bed one night and suddenly needed to throw up and that was me for about six hours. Three days later I could hardly get out of bed.

"Even the last few days I've felt so weak and only been able to practice around an hour a day before I felt like I had nothing left.

"If I didn't win that last frame and it went 5-3, I would have been thinking in my head, 'I haven't got much left'. I'll be getting plenty of rest between now and Thursday night."

As well as his illness, Allen has endured woes on the table in recent months due to issues with his trusted cue.

He ditched his favoured bit of wood after an "embarrassing" performance at the UK Championship and then gifted his replacement cue to a fan in Scotland before Christmas.

But with his original cue back after some much-needed running repairs, the Northern Irish potter is feeling better about his chances on the baize.

"My head's back where it needs to be with my cue," said Allen. "I'm good now. I'm back to my original cue and I'm happy. My head went after the UK and I changed it for Scotland but I'm back to that after getting it fixed." Williams led 2-1 despite a highest break of just 36 before Allen produced a five-frame burst to prevail with runs of 67, 54, 60, 125 and 70.

Williams, who has been candid about his eyesight problems, said: "That was pretty poor.

"That's going to happen more and more now with my career. I just accept it. I tried, even though it didn't look like it.

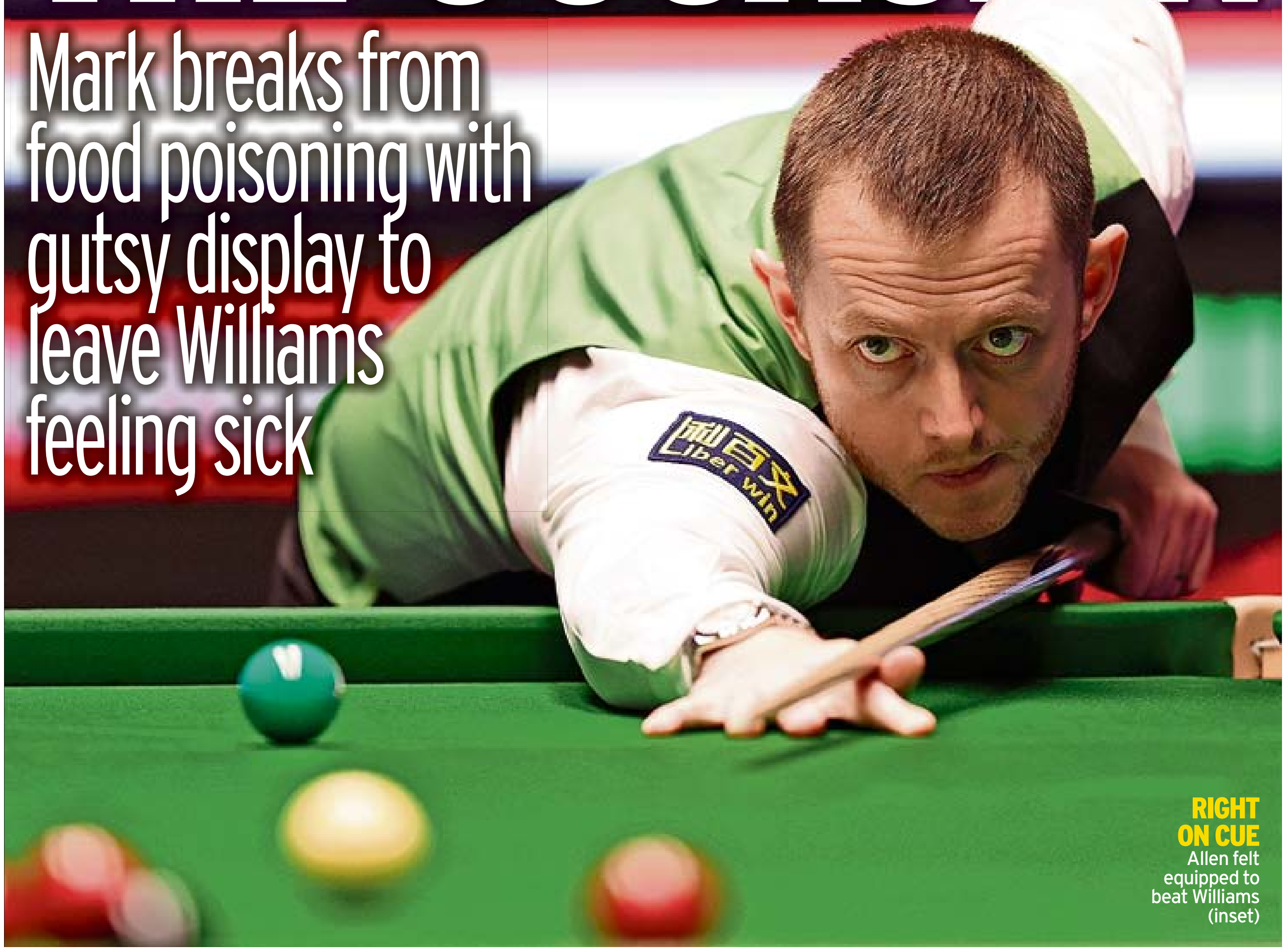
"My son had more breaks than I did today in the junior tournament at the weekend.

"I made it easy for him [Allen]. I was 5-2 down and he missed an easy ball and I was more gutted than him because I wanted him to clear up to save me the embarrassment."

World champion Zhao Xintong announced himself at the event with a 6-2 drubbing of Gary Wilson.

The Chinese star is aiming to become only the 12th player in history to complete the sport's coveted Triple Crown this week.

World No.2 Kyren Wilson starts his title bid against Si Jiahui this afternoon, while all-time great John Higgins begins his quest for a Masters hat-trick against Barry Hawkins tonight.



RIGHT ON CUE
Allen felt equipped to beat Williams (inset)

The comeback Kim has a lust for LIV again

STAR'S READY TO CLEAN UP AFTER YEARS IN THE ROUGH

BY **NEIL MCLEMAN**

ANTHONY KIM celebrated winning a wild-card return to LIV Golf with an iced tea – and claimed finding faith and sobriety was behind his second coming after being given two weeks to live.

The Ryder Cup star entered rehab for drug and alcohol addiction during his 12 years away from golf.

The American, now 40, joined the Saudi-backed league as a wild card in 2024, but was relegated last year.

However, the former world No.6 found his old form by claiming one of the three places available at LIV Golf Promotions in Florida to rejoin the tour – and immediately targeted greater successes.

"I'll be back winning golf tournaments soon," Kim said.

The American's return is a boost for LIV Golf after the departure of Brooks Koepka before Christmas.

The five-time Major winner's return to the PGA Tour was sealed yesterday, after he agreed to stringent restrictions on his financial benefits and a charitable donation of $5million (£3.7m).

On Kim, Phil Mickelson wrote on social media: "AK gets his life back and now his golf game is back."

And Kim said: "There's a ton of satisfaction. A ton. I'm sure I'll understand that all that work has really shown this week, maybe later when I'm drinking an iced tea. But it means a lot to me because three years ago, doctors had told me that I potentially had two weeks to live.

"I'm so grateful that God has given me this opportunity to showcase what I'm best a. Hopefully I'll be holding a trophy soon."

Kim needed a 36-foot birdie putt on the final hole on Friday to make the 22-man weekend shoot-out for the three places. He carded weekend rounds of 66 and 69 to claim a spot behind Canada's Richard T Lee and Bjorn Hellgren from Sweden.

Kim said: "There were definitely low moments. I found faith in rehab and in my sobriety. Not that God gives a s*** if I make LIV or if I don't, but I felt like I'm doing all the right things and I would have a great opportunity to make it back."

I felt like I'm doing all the right things and I would have a great opportunity to make it

KEEPING FAITH Kim is now targeting a return to winners' circle

DAN'S DUMPED Evans struggled with his serve

FAULTY EVANS MISSES OUT

TENNIS

FORMER British No.1 Dan Evans is out of Australian Open qualifying following a first-round defeat by Japan's Rei Sakomoto.

The 35-year-old was beaten 6-1 6-2 as he appeared to struggle with his serve.

He double-faulted four times and made just 48 percent of his first serves, compared to Sakomoto's 78 percent.

Fellow British players Jack Pinnington Jones, Jay Clarke and Oliver Crawford also lost on the first day in Melbourne, while Arthur Fery and George Loffhagen advanced to the second qualifying round. Elsewhere, Cameron Norrie claimed a straight-sets win against Hugo Gaston in the opening round of the ASB Classic.

The British No.2 secured a 6-3 6-4 victory to reach the last 16 in Auckland.

Norrie found the first break in the fifth game and comfortably saw the set out with another break in the final game.

The second set was on course for a tie-break until Gaston was broken in the 10th game after double-faulting twice, as Norrie secured victory in 1hr 20mins.

❏FORMER Wimbledon finalist Milos Raonic has announced his retirement from tennis. The 35-year-old Canadian won eight tour-level titles across his career and reached one Grand Slam final in 2016, when he was beaten by Andy Murray at Wimbledon.

His last tour-level outing came at the 2024 Paris Olympics, where he lost to Dominik Koepfer in the opening round.

Raonic wrote in a post on X: "This is a moment you know will come one day, but somehow you never feel ready for it. This is as ready as I will ever be.

"Tennis has been my love and obsession for most of my life. I have been the luckiest person to get to live out and fulfil my dreams."

WORLD OF SPORT

Holders Robins start with community trip

BY **JOSH MCALLISTER**

RUGBY LGE

HULL KR will begin their 2026 Challenge Cup defence away to the winners of Brighouse Rangers or Lock Lane in the third round of the prestigious competition.

The 16 third-round ties are set to take place on February 6-8 – a week before Super League starts.

PETERS

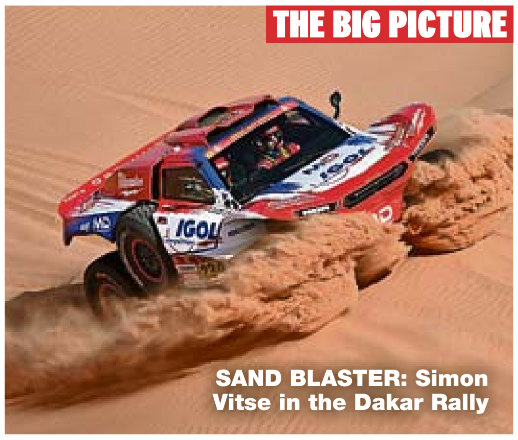
Willie Peters' Robins will take on either Brighouse Rangers or Lock Lane – both community sides – with the winners receiving a bye into the third round to face the champions following the exclusion of Featherstone Rovers, who failed to regain their RFL membership.

Beaten 2025 finalists Warrington will take on either Championship sides Sheffield Eagles or Whitehaven, while 21-time winners Wigan could face Siddal, Waterhead or Rochdale.

Toulouse have opted not to play in this year's Challenge Cup, while fellow French Super League outfit Catalan Dragons will visit either Batley Bulldogs or Hunslet ARLFC.

All Super League clubs have been drawn away.

THE BIG PICTURE



SAND BLASTER: Simon Vitse in the Dakar Rally

Vince's Hawks vision

CRICKET

HAMPSHIRE T20 captain James Vince has extended his contract until the end of 2026.

Vince, 34, is the all-time leading run-scorer in the Vitality Blast with 6,357, and last season led the Hawks to a record 11th appearance at Finals Day.

"I'm really pleased to be back with Hampshire for another year," said Vince. "This club has been a massive part of my life, and I'm as motivated as ever to keep performing and pushing for more silverware."

Nat Sciver-Brunt and Tim David have signed up for Trent Rockets ahead of The Hundred in 2026 while England all-rounder Alice Capsey has joined Birmingham Phoenix.

10 to tackle

1. How many Real Madrid players, including an unused substitute, were sent off last month in the La Liga home defeat by Celta Vigo?
2. **Which 15-year-old Scot lost the 2025 WDF World Darts Championship Open Final but won the Youth title?**
3. Who beat Merab Dvalishvili at UFC 323 to take the bantamweight championship?
4. **In 1986, which West Indian scored a 56-ball century against England?**
5. In which sport do Australia and New Zealand compete for the Bledisloe Cup?
6. **Which American sprinter was awarded the gold in the men's 100m at the 1988 Olympics after Ben Johnson failed a drugs test?**
7. What colour is the jersey worn by the leader in the points competition in the Tour de France?
8. **Which British driver won the Formula One World Championship in 1996?**
9. Which female American tennis player won two of the four Grand Slam titles in 1957?
10. **Which Italian gymnast was women's all-around gold medallist at the 2006 World Championships?**

RATINGS
0-3 Oh dear
4-6 Small beer
7-9 So near
10 Sporting Seer

ANSWERS: 1 Three. 2 Mitchell Lawrie. 3 Petr Yan. 4 Viv Richards. 5 Rugby union. 6 Carl Lewis. 7 Green. 8 Damon Hill. 9 Althea Gibson. 10 Vanessa Ferrari.

TIME LORD Rosenior hopes Chelsea reign is a long one

LIAM DRAWING ON ART WORK

BY **BOBBY VINCENT**

LIAM ROSENIOR is determined to convince Chelsea's top brass that he should be given as much time to transform the Blues as Mikel Arteta got at Arsenal.

Arteta has been with the Gunners for more than six years.

The FA Cup is the only piece of silverware the Spaniard has won at the Emirates Stadium, but he has turned the Gunners into consistent title challengers.

Arsenal sit six points clear at the top of the Premier League. After signing a six-and-a-half year deal at Stamford Bridge, Rosenior hopes he can buck the trend at Chelsea by staying the course beyond his contract.

"I'd love to be here for six years or longer," Rosenior said.

"But I'm aware that I need to win. Simple as that. Every club has a different project.

"The idea in any project is that every game you play, you're trying to win it.

"Yes, I've got ideas about what I want the team to look like in a year's time, two years, three years' time, but I've got enough resources and enough tools now to win."

Rosenior takes charge of his first game at Stamford Bridge tomorrow when Chelsea face Arsenal in the first leg of their Carabao Cup semi-final.

Like Arteta (below), Rosenior has landed his first Premier League managerial job at a 'big six' club, prompting questions about whether he has the necessary experience.

But the former Hull and Strasbourg boss cited the example of Arteta and said: "Mikel has done an incredible job. He's had time to build the way he wants his team to look. They're very good in terms of their organisation in every aspect of the game.

"Everyone has to start somewhere. Everybody has a different background. Everyone has a different way of getting somewhere. You respect everybody in the industry, because it's a difficult one to be in.

"As a coach, you're judged on every word, every action, every game. If you can't deal with that, then you shouldn't be in the job."

Rosenior will make a late decision on the fitness of both Reece James and Cole Palmer.

MERINO HUNGRY FOR MORE

Gunners are attacking four fronts with relish, says Mikel

BY **JOHN CROSS**

MIKEL MERINO insists Arsenal are ready for their fixture pile-up because they are "hungry" to win trophies this season.

Arsenal will become the first top-flight team to play four consecutive away matches in four different competitions in the space of 10 days.

They won at Portsmouth in the FA Cup on Sunday, face Chelsea in the Carabao Cup semi-final first leg tomorrow, go to Nottingham Forest on Saturday in the Premier League and then visit Inter Milan in the Champions League next Tuesday.

It is an exhausting run which will test the strength and resolve of Mikel Arteta's squad but Merino insists they are all determined to win silverware.

The Gunners midfielder said: "The hunger is there. It's been there for a long time. Sometimes it's a matter of details, it's a matter of situations, of minutes, of moments, that doesn't let you win.

"But the hunger has been there, and you can see it every training session. And it will be there until the end of the season.

"The FA Cup and Wembley sounds like a dream. There is still a long way to go. But obviously, we have to have those big goals in our mind.

"For us, it doesn't matter if it's the Carabao Cup, the FA Cup, or a friendly. Every game that we wear this shirt, we have to do our best. We have to win, and put in a good performance"

Merino also pointed to the return of fit-again Kai Havertz as an "amazing" boost while the depth of the squad gives them hope to carry on winning on four fronts, despite the demands.

He added: "Amazing, amazing. We're all buzzing for Kai to come back after a big, big injury. To have him around is so good for everyone, for the atmosphere in the training ground, for the support that he gives us as well in the training ground, having him around every session.

"And now having him on the pitch is one more tool for the coach. We are really happy for him.

"You can see the depth in the squad. Obviously, when you make so many changes, sometimes it can be tricky, because we are not used to playing with each other, and those connections are very, very important.

"But at Portsmouth you saw a team full of quality, a team full of attitude and hard work, and that's the good thing. Everyone is going to be important at the end of the season.

"And we all have to be ready, because games come thick and fast, and you never know when it's going to be your time."

❑PER MERTESACKER will step down from his position as Arsenal Academy manager at the end of the season.

The former defender has helped pave the way for players such as Ethan Nwaneri, Myles Lewis-Skelly, and Max Dowman to progress to the first team.

"Arsenal is and will always be a very special club to me, so this was a difficult decision," Mertesacker said.

CHASING BIG GOALS Merino's on a trophy hunt, boosted by the return of Havertz (inset)

BRIGHTON LAND ALL BLACK

BY **NEIL MCLEMAN**

BRIGHTON have appointed a former All Blacks coach as their new head of player development and high performance.

Mike Anthony, 54, spent 17 years with New Zealand Rugby in two spells in a range of senior performance roles.

The Kiwi (left) previously worked in the UK as Gloucester's head of strength and conditioning from 2004-2008. Anthony, who will start next month subject to obtaining a visa, will work with sporting director Jason Ayto, technical director Mike Cave and men's head coach Fabian Hurzeler.

His last task before joining the Premier League club is to submit a review of the All Blacks in 2025, including their Twickenham defeat to England in November.

Ayto said: "We're delighted to welcome Mike to Brighton & Hove Albion. His track record within one of world sport's most successful high-performance systems speaks for itself. Mike has an exceptional ability to build environments where players, coaches and teams can thrive, and his expertise will strengthen every part of our performance structure."

Hurzeler spoke last season about his admiration for the All Blacks, saying: "Rugby teams show a lot of togetherness, they take responsibility, especially the individual players.

"We can learn a lot in football from them."

FOOTBALL LATEST

● ASTON Villa have signed Brian Madjo from FC Metz in a deal worth about £10 million. The striker, who turned 17 yesterday, has penned a long-term deal. Madjo plays for England's Under-17s, despite being capped by Luxembourg's senior side. He said: "It was a dream to me to play in the Premier League."

● **CRYSTAL PALACE target Zakaria El Ouahdi is ready to prioritise a move to the Premier League this month. Everton have also shown interest in the Morocco wing-back, who has been courted by Bundesliga sides Stuttgart and Wolfsburg.**

● BRENTFORD have tabled a £13m bid for Lazio's Matteo Cancellieri. The Italy attacker, 23, has featured 14 times for Lazio this season, scoring three goals. The Bees' bid is understood to be an initial £10.4m plus about £2.6m in bonuses.

RULE CHANGE HAUNTS HOWE

BAD NEWS Howe wasn't thrilled to hear Semenyo was free to play

Semenyo to face Toon after cup-tied status scrapped

NEWCASTLE v MANCHESTER CITY

Carabao Cup: Semi-final first leg, KO 8pm

BY **LEE RYDER**

EDDIE HOWE is taking a rule change on the chin as the Newcastle head coach prepares to face former transfer target Antoine Semenyo.

Manchester City's £64million signing is clear to face the Magpies in the semi-final despite featuring for Bournemouth this term in the Carabao Cup, with players permitted to feature for two clubs in the same season after cup-tied rules were scrapped in the competition.

The rule is a bone of contention for the Toon, given Martin Dubravka was unable to replace the suspended Nick Pope in the 2023 final after playing for the Red Devils earlier that season.

But Semenyo, fresh from a debut goal in the 10-1 win against Exeter in the FA Cup, will be part of Pep Guardiola's side against Newcastle.

Howe said: "It was nice to find out that rule had changed after finding out they'd signed him.

"I have to say that's one rule change I probably wouldn't be supportive of at this moment, but Antoine's had an incredible season.

"I'm a big admirer of his, and he scored on his debut, so fair play to him. Man City have signed a very, very good player."

Newcastle's past two ventures to Wembley, for the Carabao Cup final in 2023 and 2025, have been after winning the away leg first before finishing the job at home.

But Howe's side must grapple with being at home first this time.

He said: "The preference is for the home game to be the second leg because you have a clear picture of what we need to do and have the home crowd with you.

"This time we need to use the home crowd for our advantage in the first game, trying to give everything to impose ourselves on them.

"We really enjoyed the two-legged format last year, and even the gap between games was good because you could detach yourself from the result, and it's very similar this year.

"This is going to be a tough challenge, they are the hardest team to play over two legs in this country."

Howe had to hold a roll call ahead of tonight, with Dan Burn, Emil Krafth, Jamaal Lascelles, Tino Livramento, and Fabian Schar all injured.

Schar was suspended anyway, but defensive numbers are low and several players had no choice but to play 120 minutes of Saturday's FA Cup win against Bournemouth.

Howe said: "They are a very difficult team to prepare for. They always change and tinker a lot with the tactical set-up they have and they have a few players missing."

With the likes of Sandro Tonali playing through the pain barrier, Howe knows he may have to make some brave selection calls.

But he said: "Physical and energy levels are of utmost importance for this game. We will make decisions based on that.

"This is a huge challenge, some players have just played 120 minutes and then a few days later are being asked to go again, but I'd like to think, physically and mentally, come kick-off we will be ready to go again."

Newcastle (4-3-3): Pope; Trippier, Thiaw, Botman, Hall; Miley, Guimarares, Joelinton; Murphy, Wissa, Barnes

Manchester City (4-3-3): Trafford; Nunes, Alleyne, Khusanov, O'Reilly; Rodri, Gonzalez, Lewis; Foden, Haaland, Semenyo

Referee: Chris Kavanagh.

OINE TO WATCH Semenyo scored on his City debut last Saturday

BENCH WARMER Goalkeeper Trafford

Pep's still hot on quality of cold Trafford

BY **SIMON BAJKOWSKI**

PEP GUARDIOLA will start James Trafford against Newcastle tonight – even though the goalkeeper's future at Manchester City is in doubt.

The City manager admits the England keeper may leave the Etihad, despite pleading with him to stay.

Trafford picked City over Newcastle last summer, but was almost immediately benched when the club signed Gianluigi Donnarumma on the final day of the transfer window.

Having started the first three Premier League games this season, Trafford has been out in the cold with no starts in 18 since, with appearances restricted to knockout competitions.

Guardiola will keep him in goal for the first leg of their semi-final, despite seeing Donnarumma as his No.1.

City do not want to lose Trafford this month, but would consider offers in the summer, given the keeper wants to play every week.

"He reacted really well," Guardiola (left) said. "There's no complaints. James is a top keeper, and there's no doubt about that.

"I don't feel bad, but I understand the situation of the keeper is completely special – play one or the other one.

"It's not like some players you can play in different positions. What I said, we count on him, we want him, and what's going to happen at the end of the season we will see. I would like him to stay for many, many, many years, because he has the attributes to play in a big, big club like us."

Erling Haaland is likely to start at Newcastle. Guardiola admitted the striker has had the chances to score more than he has managed.

Haaland started the FA Cup win against Exeter, and played 45 minutes without scoring in the 10-1 victory before he was substituted.

Haaland's only goal since his double against West Ham on December 20 has been a penalty against Brighton, and his frustrations continued in front of goal against Exeter when he drew a blank again.

"He's had a lot of chances," Guardiola said. "And that's what we have to do – try to create chances for him and then in the right moment, always, he will be there.

"I preferred him to play 45 minutes – it didn't really matter about the result.

"Just play 45 minutes. He trained the day after. Erling is a guy who needs rhythm and that's why."

SWEATING Livramento is waiting on scan results

EDDIE'S OPEN WINDOW PLAN

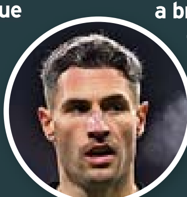
BY **LEE RYDER**

NEWCASTLE head coach Eddie Howe says that his £250million spending spree in the summer is not holding him back from signing players this month.

But, with one eye on Profit and Sustainability Rules [PSR], he says Newcastle do not want to be pushed into signing the "wrong player".

"Regarding transfers, everybody is really supportive," said Howe. "The problem for us is PSR. I don't think there is any issue with anyone saying we can't do this and we can't do that.

"It's value for money now, value for money in the summer, and signing the right player. Are the right players available in January? There is a lot to discuss and consider for our short-term needs and long-term decisions."



As Tino Livramento waits for hamstring scan results and Fabian Schar (left) recovers from an ankle issue that is a nasty whack rather than a break, Howe said: "We will have to wait and see and make decisions based on what we know with other injuries, timescales and returns."

Defender Sven Botman, 26, has signed a new long-term contract, extending his stay at Newcastle until summer 2030.

SHOCK AND AWE

The weekend that showed the FA Cup at its finest... now go and scrap extra-time

COMMENT

BY **JOHN CROSS**

THE FA Cup had its greatest shock and one of the best third-round weekends in recent history.

Macclesfield's fairy-tale win against Crystal Palace – the lowest-ranked team knocking out the holders – made them the first sixth-tier team to beat a top-flight side in the competition.

There were so many great stories around that tie. The Silkmen dedicated it to their striker Ethan McLeod, who died after a car crash last month. Wayne Rooney's brother John is the manager.

The club's owner Rob Smethurst buying the club on Right Move after a four-day bender in Ibiza. Honestly, if you cannot buy into Macclesfield and enjoy their heroics then you must have a heart of stone.

What a fabulous story.

Weston-super-Mare, the semi-pro side from National League South, put up some fight after taking 600 fans to Grimsby, only to go out 3-2.

Clubs get more generous away ticket allocations in the FA Cup.

Arsenal filled one end at Portsmouth.

Even the all-Premier League ties looked better with away teams able to bring a larger following. Blackpool had one hell of a day out at Ipswich.

Wrexham, on Friday night, knocking out Nottingham Forest on penalties with their Hollywood co-owner Ryan Reynolds (left) cheering them on from the stands.

It was a brilliant game, with Callum Hudson-Odoi scoring spectacularly, but Forest still losing with Wrexham keeper Arthur Okonkwo the hero in the shoot-out.

It is brilliant to see football burst out of the Premier League bubble and enjoy the FA Cup for what it is.

It is a huge part of English football.

A stand-alone competition which deserves respect and recognition, plus the realisation of what it means to the whole football pyramid.

The FA Cup allows lower division teams to dream. Their owners relish the spotlight – and the much-needed TV cash and prize money. While the Premier League drags its heels on the "deal" with the EFL, the FA Cup delivers. And there were two other great things which made last weekend wonderful.

No VAR meant everyone could actually celebrate in the moment without having to wait for the technology to check whether it was offside, if the ball had brushed an arm or if the keeper had been fouled.

What a joy. It was brilliant. It was refreshing. And glorious.

It even made me think – as someone who still stands by VAR as a necessity – that we made a mistake.

The other thing is the FA Cup is better without replays.

And let me be clear... it's not fair on lower division clubs to miss out on the extra cash from replays.

But that is something the richer clubs need to fix and comes into the whole "deal" conversation. But what it does mean is that clubs go for it. They go into games with a win-or-bust mentality. It makes games more exciting and dramatic.

Now for the next step.

Ditch extra time. No one wants it. It would make it even more exciting – and give us even greater chance of upsets.

The FA Cup is all about tradition and history. But we must also move with the times.

Those days of big shocks were supposedly gone, because the gap between the Premier League and the rest as so vast.

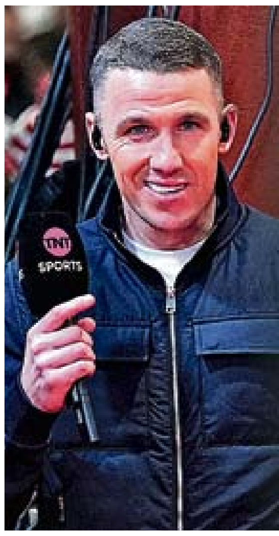
Well, Macclesfield put paid to that.

The FA Cup has never been better.

Never been stronger.

And this has been one of the best weekends it has ever seen.

FAIRY-TALE HEROES Macclesfield drink in their success (right) while Weston (left) did their fans proud



MACC GET ANOTHER CRACK AT TOP FLIGHT

FROM BACK PAGE

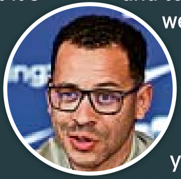
Liverpool, Arsenal but another Premier League side is incredible," said Macclesfield manager John Rooney

The sixth-tier side, who visit Woking in the FA Trophy tonight, are the lowest-ranked team left in the FA Cup, having entered in second round qualifying back in September.

Paul Dawson and Isaac Buckley-Ricketts scored on Saturday as they held on to beat Palace 2-1. Rooney (left), brother of 2016 FA Cup winner Wayne, added: "I don't think it has sunk in just yet, but it's incredible.

"We train Tuesday and Thursday so we haven't set eyes on the lads since the game. We are back on the road tomorrow, but that's non-League football for you. Since the club reformed they've done really well climbing the league, but not had the FA Cup run.

"This means a lot to fans and to the club financially as well."



Elsewhere, Liam Rosenior (left) will return to Hull, who he managed for two years from 2022, with his new side Chelsea.

Premier League leaders Arsenal will welcome League One Wigan, who won the FA Cup in 2013, while Newcastle head to Aston Villa in an all-Premier League tie.

Manchester City, who thrashed League One Exeter 10-1 on Saturday, will host League Two opposition in the form of either Salford City or Swindon Town.

Grimsby, who beat Manchester United in the Carabao Cup this season, will host Premier League basement boys Wolves.

FA CUP FOURTH-ROUND DRAW

TIES TO BE PLAYED WEEKEND OF FEB 14-15

Liverpool v Brighton
Stoke v Fulham
Oxford Utd v Sunderland
Southampton v Leicester
Wrexham v Ipswich
Arsenal v Wigan
Hull v Chelsea
Burton v West Ham
Burnley v Mansfield
Norwich v West Brom
Port Vale v Bristol City
Grimsby v Wolves
Aston Villa v Newcastle
Man City v Salford or Swindon
Macclesfield v Brentford
Birmingham v Leeds

SHOCKER Adam Phillips scores to dismay of Kop boss Arne Slot (right)

SCREAMER Szoboszlai opens the scoring from long range

3-1 Florian Wirtz whips in a curling effort to ease the tension in the Anfield crowd

EMIRATES FA CUP

LIVERPOOL		BARNSLEY
75%	POSSESSION	25%
7	SHOTS ON TARGET	4
3	SHOTS OFF TARGET	3
730	TOTAL PASSES	232
11	CORNERS	5
0	OFFSIDE	2
6	FOULS	7
0 1	CARDS	0 0

REF: Farai Hallam

LINE-UPS

LIVERPOOL (4-3-3): Mamardashvili; Frimpong (Wirtz 60), Gomez (Konate 60), Van Dijk, Robertson; Mac Allister (Nyoni 88), Szoboszlai, Jones; Chiesa (Ekitike 60), Ngumoha (Gravenberch 74), Gakpo

BARNSLEY (5-4-1): Cooper; O'Keeffe, Watson, Durand De Gevigney, Shepherd, Ogbeta (O'Connell 73); Phillips (Kelly 73), Bland, Yoganathan (Gent 88), Cleary; Keillor-Dunn (McGoldrick 81)

MAN OF THE MATCH
REYES CLEARY

WIRTZ IS OVER

Florian on target again as Slot's men avoid a major slip

LIVERPOOL 4
Szoboszlai 9, Frimpong 36, Wirtz 84, Ekitike 90
BARNSLEY 1
Phillips 40

BY **PAUL GORST**

THERE was a notable sigh of relief around Anfield when Florian Wirtz curled home Liverpool's third goal last night.

Having seen Arsenal and Manchester City blitz lower league opponents at the weekend, Arne Slot would have been hoping his side could repeat the trick and have a comfortable night.

But Barnsley ensured that was never the case and had the Reds ruffled for the majority of the second half.

The scoreline makes it look like Slot did have a simple night – and he will be buoyed by the return of Hugo Ekitike – but the pressure remains on the Reds boss.

Slot named a strong side for this one with Virgil van Dijk, Dominik Szoboszlai and Cody Gakpo all starting alongside Andy Robertson, Alexis Mac Allister and Curtis Jones.

But the visitors nearly took a shock lead after just 28 seconds when captain Davis Keillor-Dunn headed against the post, before a rocket from Szoboszlai gave the Reds a lead inside 10 minutes.

It's 20 years now since the famous 'Steven Gerrard final' – when Rafa Benitez's side beat West Ham on penalties after their captain had twice inspired a comeback – and Szoboszlai's howitzer, the 100th goal of his career, was more than a passable impression of the Liverpool legend's iconic extra-time equaliser in Cardiff.

Despite the setback, Barnsley continued to carry a threat and Jonathan Bland forced a decent save from Giorgi Mamardashvili before the Georgia international was tested again shortly after by Keillor-Dunn.

The jet-heeled Jeremie Frimpong (inset) continued his excellent return from injury when he cut inside Nathanael Ogbeta before firing home the Reds' second with his left foot.

The diminutive Dutchman has been a real bright spot for Slot these past few weeks and he added another goal contribution to his growing catalogue as he deputised for Conor Bradley, whose season is now over, at right-back.

Barnsley's reduction of the deficit, shortly before half-time, was the stuff of dreams for former Liverpool academy prospect Adam Phillips but it arrived via a personal nightmare for Szoboszlai.

His over-confidence saw him inexplicably fail to execute a back-heel inside his own penalty area after initially sweeping up the danger.

It was needless from the Hungary captain and was duly punished by Reds fans Phillips, who was left with a career highlight to savour. Szoboszlai will still feature at the weekend when Burnley visit in the Premier League, despite the bruised ego he suffered here.

Slot, to further emphasise his respect to this competition, sent on Florian Wirtz, Ibrahima Konate and the returning Ekitike on the hour mark.

But it was Conor Hourihane's side who looked the more likely as they pressed and probed for an equaliser.

The Tykes boss was furious at not seeing a penalty come his team's way after Szoboszlai seemed to clip the impressive Reyes Cleary.

But the Premier League champions made the result safe when substitutes Ekitike and Wirtz combined for a lovely goal, scored by the latter, before Ekitike put the cherry on the cake in stoppage time.

SPORT IN BRIEF

FA Cup 3rd Round

LIVERPOOL (2)....... 4	BARNSLEY (1)...... 1
Szoboszlai 9	Phillips 40
Frimpong 36	
Wirtz 84, Ekitike 90	

FA CUP FOURTH ROUND DRAW **Ties to be played weekend 14th February** — Liverpool v Brighton, Stoke City v Fulham, Oxford United v Sunderland, Southampton v Leicester City, Wrexham v Ipswich Town, Arsenal v Wigan Athletic, Hull City v Chelsea, Burton Albion v West Ham United, Burnley v Mansfield Town, Norwich City v West Bromwich Albion, Port Vale v Bristol City, Grimsby Town v Wolverhampton, Aston Villa v Newcastle United, Manchester City v Salford City or Swindon Town, Macclesfield v Brentford, Birmingham City v Leeds United.

Papa John's Trophy 3rd Rnd

AFC WIMB'DN (2) 4	WEST HAM U21 (0) 2
Smith 3	Ajala 66
Maycock 40	Orford 84
Browne 47	
Hippolyte 90	

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NFL WILD CARD RND: Philadelphia Eagles 19 San Francisco 49ers 23, New England Patriots 16 Los Angeles Chargers 3.

BASKETBALL

NBA: Orlando Magic 128 New Orleans Pelicans 118, Memphis Grizzlies 103 Brooklyn Nets 98, Portland Trail Blazers 114 New York Knicks 123, Toronto Raptors 116 Philadelphia 76ers 115 (OT), Oklahoma City Thunder 124 Miami Heat 112, Minnesota Timberwolves 104 San Antonio Spurs 103, Phoenix Suns 112 Washington Wizards 93, Denver Nuggets 108 Milwaukee Bucks 104, Golden State Warriors 111 Atlanta Hawks 124, Sacramento Kings 111 Houston Rockets 98.

CRICKET

BIG BASH LEAGUE — Group Stage (Sydney) Melbourne Renegades 170-8 (20.0 overs); Sydney Thunder 140-6 (15.2 overs; G S Sandhu 4-42)
Sydney Thunder win by 4 wickets (DLS Method)

ICEHOCKEY

NHL: Winnipeg Jets 4 New Jersey Devils 3, Boston Bruins 1 Pittsburgh Penguins 0, Nashville Predators 3 Washington Capitals 2, Utah Mammoth 2 Columbus Blue Jackets 3 (OT), San Jose Sharks 2 Vegas Golden Knights 7.

SNOOKER

WST Johnstone's Paint Masters (Alexandra Palace, London, England). — **1st Round:** M Allen (NIrl) bt M Williams (Wal) 6-2, X Zhao (Chn) bt G Wilson (Eng) 6-2.

TENNIS

ATP & WTA ADELAIDE INTERNATIONAL (Adelaide Australia) — Men's 1st rd: R Opelka (USA) bt A Popyrin (Aus) 6-3 7-6 (8-6) J Munar (Spa) bt D Altmaier (Ger) 6-3 6-0; V Vacherot (Mco) bt M Kecmanovic (Ser) 7-6 (7-5) 6-4; U Humbert (Fra) bt T Atmane (Fra) 6-3 7-6 (7-3) T Kokkinakis (Aus) bt S Korda (USA) 3-6 6-3 7-6 (7-3) Women's 1st rd: E Navarro (USA) bt E Jones (Aus) 6-3 6-3; V Mboko (Can) bt B Maia (Bra) 5-7 6-3 6-2; A Tomljanovic (Aus) bt C Tauson (Den) 7-6 (7-5) 0-0 Retired A Kalinskaya (Rus) bt G Ruse (Rom) 6-0 6-3; M Bouzkova (Cze) bt P Badosa (Spa) 3-6 6-3 6-4; J Cristian (Rom) bt E Alexandrova (Rus) 6-4 6-4; D Kasatkina (Aus) bt M Sakkari (Gre) 7-6 (7-2) 6-4.

ATP ASB CLASSIC (Auckland New Zealand) — **1st rd:** E Spizzirri (USA) bt A Mannarino (Fra) 6-4 6-3; J Brooksby (USA) bt J Watt (Nzl) 6-4 6-3; F Comesana (Arg) bt V Royer (Fra) 6-4 6-4; C Norrie (Gbr) bt H Gaston (Fra) 6-3 6-4; S Baez (Arg) bt E Nava (USA) 4-6 7-5 6-3

AUSTRALIAN OPEN QUALIFYING (Melbourne Park Melbourne) — **Men's 1st rd:** A Fery (Gbr) bt E Winter (Aus) 6-2 6-4; G Heide (Bra) bt J Clarke (Gbr) 6-3 6-3; R Sakamoto (Jpn) bt D Evans (Gbr) 6-1 6-2; D Merida Aguilar (Spa) bt O Crawford (Gbr) 6-3 2-6 6-3.

TODAY'S DIARY

(7.45pm unless stated)

Carabao Cup Semi-final First Leg

Newcastle v Man City (8pm).......................
(Live on Sky Sports Main Event)

Papa John's Trophy 3rd Rnd

Bolton v Port Vale (7pm)............................
Bristol Rovers v Plymouth (7pm).................
Doncaster v Fleetwood (7pm).....................
Huddersfield v Rotherham (7pm)................
Luton v Swindon (7pm) ....
Stockport Co v Harrogate Tn (7pm).............

SPFL Trust Trophy 4th Rnd

Arbroath v East Fife ....
Ayr v Stranraer...
Partick v Inverness CT ....
Queen's Park v Forfar.................................
Stirling v Stenhousemuir.............................
St Johnstone v Ross County........................

FA Trophy — 4th rnd: Woking v Macclesfield FC, Tamworth v Rochdale, Hornchurch v AFC Telford, FC Halifax v Anstey Nomads, Scunthorpe v Clitheroe, Kidderminster v Morecambe, Bath City v Southend, Eastleigh v Southport.

Brazil star wants to Paq up and go home

FROM BACK PAGE while refusing to sell would displease Paqueta.

The player revealed he had needed "psychological support" after his transfer to Manchester City collapsed when he was charged with spot fixing in 2023. He was cleared in July last year and Aston Villa tried to sign him.

In an interview with Brazilian TV station GE in November, Paqueta also revealed he had spoken to Flamengo about returning to the club in the last two summers. "I understood that it wasn't the right time, but I know the doors will always be open for me," he said. "I know that at some point this return will happen."

When he scored for Nuno's (above) side against Nottingham Forest, he mimed throwing a phone away and kissed the badge in a bid to end speculation.

But after he was sent off for two yellow cards for dissent against Liverpool in November, he accused the FA of not supporting him enough.

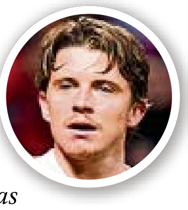
Paqueta is understood to be disillusioned with life in London and wants a return home to press his World Cup claims.

CONOR SET FOR SPURS

BY **MATT MALTBY**

TOTTENHAM are closing in on the signing of Atletico Madrid star Conor Gallagher.

Despite strong interest from Premier League rivals Aston Villa, the north Londoners are on the brink of agreeing a £34.7million transfer.



Gallagher (right) has struggled for regular first-team action this season, with just four league starts.

Spurs escalated their search for a new midfielder after it was confirmed Rodrigo Bentancur requires hamstring surgery and is set to miss at least three months. Spurs boss Thomas Frank is also set to welcome Santos' highly-rated left-back Souza in a £13m deal.

Arbeloa steps up as Alonso departs Real

XABI ALONSO has left Real Madrid by mutual consent – after less than eight months in charge.

Alonso joined after a successful spell as Bayer Leverkusen boss to replace Carlo Ancelotti as head coach.

The Spanish giants announced the decision to drop Alonso (right) following their 3-2 Spanish Super Cup defeat by rivals Barcelona in Saudi Arabia.

Alvaro Arbeloa, a former Liverpool team-mate of Alonso, has taken over as head coach after being promoted from his job as boss of the B team.

Arbeloa, who came through the ranks at Real as a player, returned to the Bernabeu in 2009 after his time at Anfield.

He made 238 appearances and won eight trophies with Real, including two Champions Leagues. A club statement read: "Xabi Alonso will always have the affection and admiration of all madridismo because he is a Real Madrid legend and has always represented the values of our club. Real Madrid will always be his home."

Real trail Hansi Flick's defending La Liga champions Barcelona by four points.

MISSION:

Awards night at risk for 3rd year running

EXCLUSIVE BY **JEREMY CROSS**

MANCHESTER UNITED'S embarrassed flops are expected to cancel their end-of-season awards night if they fail to secure Champions League qualification.

The fallen giants are bang in the middle of one of the worst campaigns in the club's history.

Sunday's tame FA Cup exit to Brighton means the managerless side have no chance of winning silverware at the earliest stage of a campaign since World War II.

United were knocked out of the Carabao Cup by League Two minnows Grimsby.

It is the first time the English giants have crashed out of both domestic cup competitions in their first tie since 1982.

United are not in Europe and trail Premier League leaders Arsenal by 17 points.

It looks like the only achievement capable of rescuing something from another dismal campaign would be to secure Champions League qualification.

But if United don't manage to return to Europe's top table, the squad will discuss the merits of calling off the end-of-season dinner.

And even if they do, it is still expected not to take place.

It would be the third season in succession this has happened.

United's players decided not to hold the 2024 players' awards night, despite winning the FA Cup, when the team ended up in eighth place under Erik ten Hag.

And the same thing happened last season when United finished a woeful 15th.

The awards night involves prizes for players from across the men's, women's and youth teams.

But if the men's team decide not to stage the event, it will not take place.

SUCKER FOR PAIN
Carrick is set to return as the interim boss of United

Strugglers can't take the Michael with interim

BY **TYRONE MARSHALL**

FOR an indication of Michael Carrick's character and his ability to make big decisions you only need to go back to just his second game while holding the fort at Manchester United.

Carrick's first game after Ole Gunnar Solskjaer was dismissed was a 2-0 Champions League win in Villarreal, with Cristiano Ronaldo and Jadon Sancho getting the goals. But when he took United to Stamford Bridge a few days later, there was a bombshell when he dropped Ronaldo.

It was a brave and ruthless decision from someone still finding their way in management, and it marked Carrick out as someone who had the belief to follow his convictions. Ronaldo had been benched for one other game that season at home against Everton.

When that match finished 1-1, Solskjaer's decision was heavily scrutinised and criticised.

But Carrick's call to leave Ronaldo out at Chelsea was about more than rotation.

This was a tactical decision, and he felt that a front two of Marcus Rashford and Sancho would be more beneficial to United than starting Ronaldo, who could still score goals but had clearly affected the team's pressing.

Ronaldo came on in the 64 th minute, when United led through Sancho's goal, and although the game finished 1-1, it was enough of a success for Carrick to avoid any major backlash. It was an

IMPOSSIBLE 2

Thankless task awaits the returning Carrick

BY **JEREMY CROSS**

MICHAEL CARRICK is walking straight into a hiding to nothing at Old Trafford.

Carrick is set to become interim manager of Manchester United for the second time in his career.

A role otherwise known as, 'The impossible job'.

Carrick is heading back into a club that's somehow in a worse place than when he took caretaker charge in November 2021.

He will find a group of players with no trophies left to win.

Some of them will have no motivation to secure Champions League qualification, because they will be leaving in the summer.

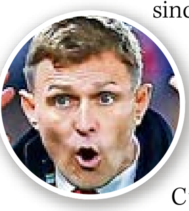
Squad morale is on the floor, because United's campaign is now in the gutter alongside the club's once great reputation.

The man who has taken charge since Ruben Amorim's sacking, Darren Fletcher (inset), signed off by describing the players as "fragile" after they crashed out of the FA Cup with defeat to Brighton.

But somehow Carrick has to find some confidence and belief in a group of players from minute one.

Because United have the small matter of a derby showdown with Manchester City at home on Saturday.

Good luck with that, mate.



Carrick has been here before, of course, and knows what it takes to succeed at the fallen giants.

He is a student of the game, an intelligent individual capable of bringing some calm to all the chaos.

But he will soon realise he has a group of players incapable of fitting in to certain systems.

So his first task will be to work out a formation which gets the best from the likes of Bruno Fernandes, Casemiro and Matheus Cunha, while not leaving his defence too exposed.

The former Middlesborough manager, who hasn't worked since last June, has the mother of all challenges on his hands.

United's campaign is so embarrassing they are setting records which haven't been broken since World War II.

You have to go back that long to find the last time United had no silverware to compete for at this stage of a season.

No FA Cup. No Carabao Cup and no European competition to even begin with.

And no chance of United winning the title.

The best they can now hope for is to squeeze and squirm into the European places.

That's how bad it has got.

One of the supposed biggest clubs on the planet, scavenging for scraps. United have become a parody. A laughing stock of epic proportions. Rotten from top to bottom.

A club owned by two billionaire brothers from Florida (Joel and Avram Glazer) who have somehow managed to oversee years of dereliction and dysfunction while still making huge profits.

And another bloke, in the shape of Sir Jim Ratcliffe, who has been woefully exposed as incapable of co-owning a business like United.

Ratcliffe used to have the Midas touch in other fields.

But when it comes to this footballing monster from the red half of Manchester, whatever he touches turns to the brown stuff.

United are stuck in the past, which is depriving them of any real future.

A club which has drowned in its own shameless obsession with arrogance and entitlement.

The climate is so humiliating, United will once again be cancelling the end-of-season prize-giving night.

What's the point in staging such an occasion when no one is deserving of an award?

People used to raise glasses to United to toast their relentless success.

But it's gone from a football club to a comedy club – and no one inside United is laughing.

UNITED'S CHOSEN ONE

FROM BACK PAGE

2021, before getting sacked. Carrick's appointment is expected to be confirmed in the next 24 hours.

It is hoped he will take his first training session tomorrow, ahead of the Manchester derby at Old Trafford on Saturday.

It promises to be a baptism of fire for Carrick, with United having won just one of their past seven games.

He had a three-game stint as interim boss following Solskjaer's dismissal, winning two and drawing the other, before Ralf Rangnick took interim charge.

Carrick has been out of work since being sacked by Middlesbrough in June.

The 44-year-old led Boro to the Championship play-offs in the 2022-23 campaign, but lost to Coventry in the semi-finals. His side narrowly missed out on the top six in successive campaigns, triggering the sack.

The former England midfielder won 12 major trophies in as many years as a United player, then joined Jose Mourinho's coaching staff at Old Trafford after retiring in 2018. When Mourinho was sacked, Carrick was kept on as a first-team coach by Solskjaer.

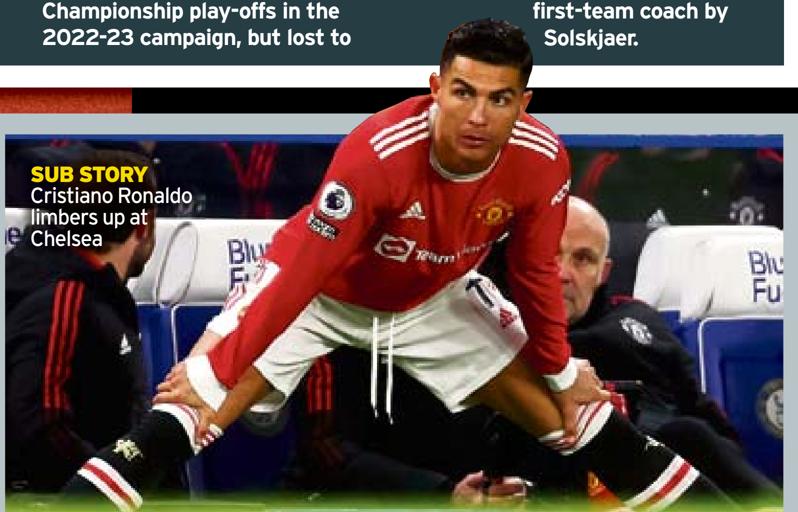
boss - just ask Ronaldo

impressively bold and confident decision from a young coach. Perhaps Carrick was freed up by the sense his time in charge was going to be short but it should still be praised as a decisive call.

Carrick conducted himself well during his three-game spell in charge. After the wreckage of the final weeks of the Solskjaer era, the results he oversaw against three good sides were impressive.

It was the start of his managerial career and he enjoyed success at Middlesbrough without getting them promoted.

He will be a popular appointment in the United dressing room but the players have already been warned he is not afraid to make the big decisions.



SUB STORY Cristiano Ronaldo limbers up at Chelsea

GREAT SCOTT McTominay scores again for Napoli

UNITED NEED THE SPIRIT OF A McTOMINAY

BY **ANDY DUNN**

HINDSIGHT is a wonderful thing – and even better when it comes to analysing mistakes in the transfer market.

There is not a club out there who has not been made to look slightly silly by parting with a player who then goes on to be a roaring success elsewhere.

And the truth is that, under several Manchester United managers, Scott McTominay was not an automatic starter, far from it.

But in his last season at Old Trafford, McTominay scored 10 goals and made three assists in 43 appearances.

And whenever he was on the pitch, he was a powerful presence. Whatever you thought about his limitations, it was impossible to deny his commitment.

As much as McTominay was popular with United fans – not least because he showed fantastic determination to come through the ranks – no one could have anticipated him being Player of the Year in his first season in Serie A.

And few could have imagined him being such an important cog in Napoli's title-winning machine.

On a weekend when Danny Welbeck again scored against United, McTominay – after his mistake gave the home side a lead – was again inspirational for Napoli in a 2-2 draw at Inter Milan, scoring both.

The 29-year-old's performance was greeted with unanimous acclaim by the Italian media.

It is easy to be revisionist. That applies in the McTominay case, and even more so in the Welbeck timeline.

But the relative success of Welbeck and, in particular, McTominay elsewhere, does highlight what United – regardless of coaching and executive failures – appear to be missing.

Character, spirit, an infectious attitude.

DAILY EXPRESS
SPORT
express.co.uk/sport

SEMENYO IS FREE TO HIT TOON

CARABAO CUP: PAGE 55

LIVERPOOL 4 BARNSLEY 1

Slot's men make hard work of beating Tykes. Report: P57

Strong Reds get it Dom in the end

BARNS STORMER Szoboszlai scored, but then gifted visitors goal

MACC PLAN BEES STING

BY **JOSHUA PECK**

GIANTKILLERS Macclesfield have another chance for a famous upset when they welcome Brentford in the fourth round of the FA Cup.

The Silkmen pulled off the competition's greatest shock on Saturday, when they knocked out holders Crystal Palace.

Now the National League North side get the chance to do it all again when Keith Andrews' Bees make the trip to Moss Rose next month. "We said before we'd have liked Chelsea,

TURN TO PAGE 56, COLUMN 2

STARS ALIGN FOR CARRICK

Michael is United's chosen one after players snub Ole

ROLE MODEL Carrick could take training as early as tomorrow

BY **JEREMY CROSS**

MANCHESTER UNITED have turned to Michael Carrick as interim manager - after some senior stars rejected the return of Ole Gunnar Solskjaer.

Carrick will take charge until the end of the season in what will be his second stint at the helm.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer (right) had been favourite to replace the sacked Ruben Amorim. The Norwegian was interviewed twice for the role, but was ruled out when some players went to club bosses and told them they did not want Solskjaer to come back.

It is understood the players made it clear they had little confidence in Solskjaer, and wanted Carrick to lead them for the remainder of the season. United legend Solskjaer managed the club between 2018 and

TURN TO PAGE 59, COLUMN 2

HAMMERS: DON'T PAQ YOUR BAGS

BY **NEIL MCLEMAN**

WEST HAM will resist selling Lucas Paqueta this month - despite the Brazil star seeking a return to Flamengo.

Hammers boss Nuno Espirito Santo claimed the midfielder was "not ready to play" in the FA Cup tie with QPR on Sunday.

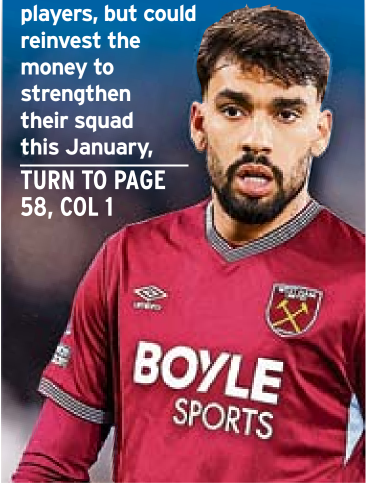
Paqueta had requested not to play as he is carrying an injury.

But the £51million star is at the centre of a transfer tug-of-war. Paqueta is looking to leave for personal and professional reasons, while the Hammers need him for their relegation battle.

He played for Flamengo from 2016-2019 and the Brazilian champions are ready to pay €40m for the 28-year-old (below), who is out of contract at the end of next season.

West Ham would be losing one of their best players, but could reinvest the money to strengthen their squad this January,

TURN TO PAGE 58, COL 1



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Puzzles

SUDOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, row, and 3x3 square includes all of the digits from one to nine. **Solutions tomorrow**

EASY

	4		9	8			6	
	6	9	3					1
7				6	1	9		3
8		5				7		
			5	4			8	
	2	4			8	3		9
5		7	4					8
					3	6	1	
	3	6		2	5			7

MEDIUM

	5		9		4		8	
3	2			1				6
		9		5				2
		1	5				3	
	4		6	7	3			1
	3					4		
7				8		6		
4					5		1	8
	6		2				7	4

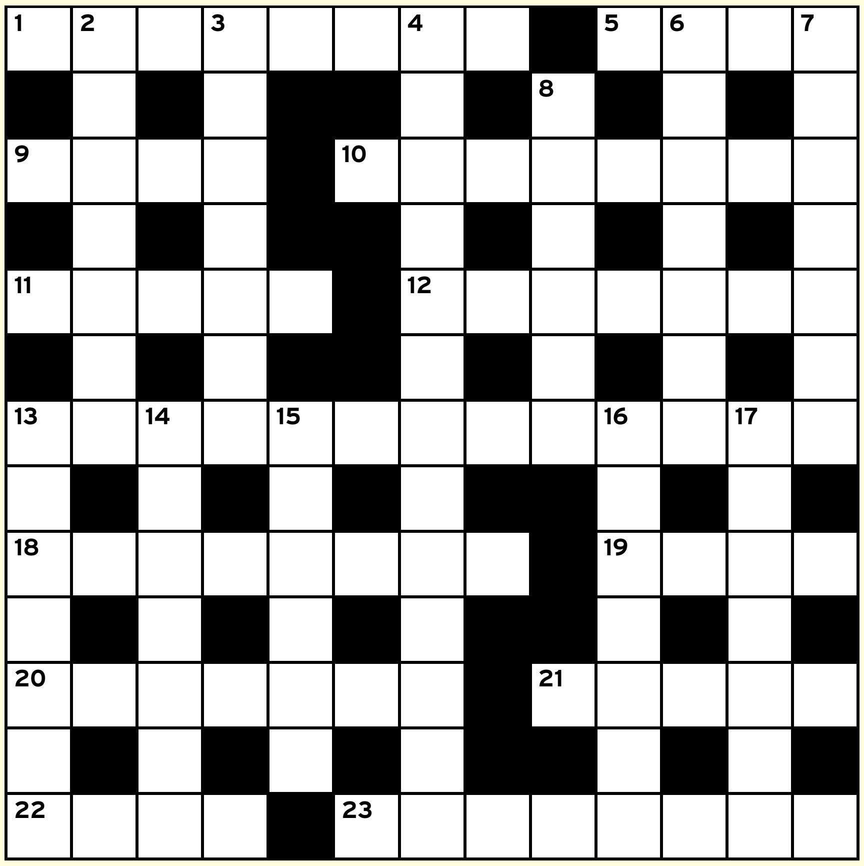
DIFFICULT

		8	5			1		
5					2		6	
			7	6				5
			1				3	
	2		6		9		1	
	5				7			
4				1	6			9
	9		8					
		3			4	7		

Extra clues:
0901 322 5609
**Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

Today's solution:
0907 181 2573
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS
- **1** Combat (8)
- **5** Solitary (4)
- **9** Prophet (4)
- **10** Episode (8)
- **11** Swift (5)
- **12** Charm (7)
- **13** Evolutionary (13)
- **18** Drinking bout (8)
- **19** Rip (4)
- **20** Boiled meat (7)
- **21** Dizzy (5)
- **22** Ogle (4)
- **23** Poor (8)

DOWN
- **2** Daunt (7)
- **3** Fruitful (7)
- **4** Thought (13)
- **6** Expand (4,3)
- **7** Hold spellbound (7)
- **8** Corsair (6)
- **13** Unit of sound (7)
- **14** Green growth (7)
- **15** Noisily (6)
- **16** Zero (7)
- **17** Desert (7)

Solution tomorrow

Stuck on the puzzle? Call **0905 789 4188** to hear individual clues or the full solution

Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. Service provider Spoke Ltd - **Helpline 0333 202 3390*

CROSS DOUBT

Target times: Average: **20 mins** Good: **16 mins** Excellent: **12 mins**

Stuck? Call for a clue
0901 322 5601
Halve your Target Time!

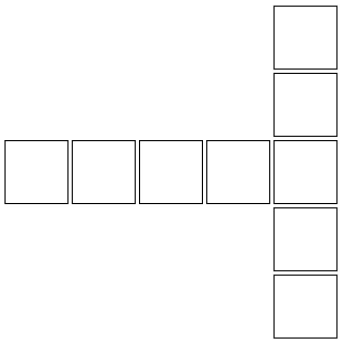
Today's solution
0901 322 5607
Both today's words in a moment!

**Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

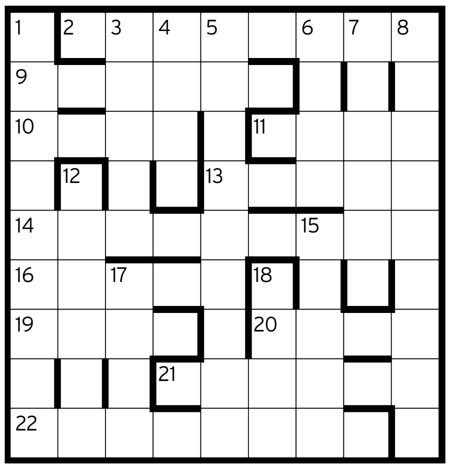
Can you make two common five-letter words from the nine letters given, using each letter only once? You can - but only if one letter features in both words in the squares on the right. There's at least one way to do it, and you have to have the right letter at the crossover - but which one is it?

See if you can find the answer within our target time. If you need help, ring our clue-line below to find out the crossover letter. **Solution tomorrow**

E F H M O O S T T



SMALL CROSSWORD



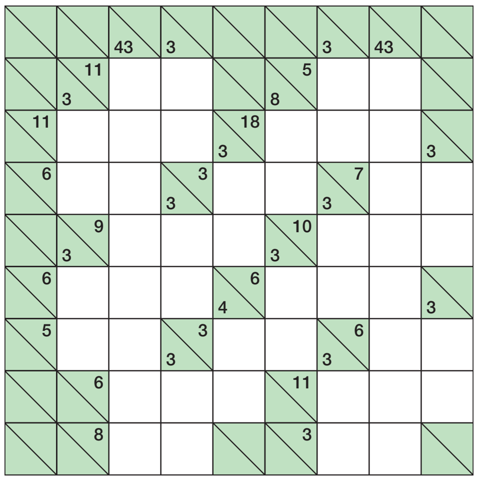
ACROSS
- **2** Places apart or alone (8)
- **9** Acquire (6)
- **10** Rowing blades (4)
- **11** Facts and figures (4)
- **13** Person living or working abroad (5)
- **14** Without a will (9)
- **16** Group of nine (5)
- **19** _ Brockovich, 2000 film (4)
- **20** Hem (4)
- **21** Naval flag (6)
- **22** Not sleek (anag.) (8)

DOWN
- **1** Melancholy (9)
- **3** Walk in a pompous manner (5)
- **4** Kiln for drying hops (4)
- **5** Sedimentary rock (9)
- **6** Snare (4)
- **7** Housing development (6)
- **8** Declaration (9)
- **12** Hooded jacket (6)
- **15** Recorded sound (5)
- **17** Pleasant (4)
- **18** Opposite of worst (4)

Solution tomorrow

For today's solution call:
0907 181 2582
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

KAKURO



Fill each sequence of blank squares using the numbers 1-9. Each sequence - across and down - must total the number in the shaded box at the beginning or top of each line. A number may be repeated in each line but NOT in a sequence.

Solution tomorrow

Puzzles

QUIZWORD

ACROSS

6 Artificial language invented by Johann Schleyer in 1880 (7)

7 & 21 --- --- Lake in north west Canada is drained by the Mackenzie River into the Arctic Ocean (5,5)

9 & 12 Novel by Charles Dickens featuring the character Wilkins Micawber (5,11)

10 River in western Australia that flows into King Sound (7)

12 See 9

14 Spineless raspberry bush, Rubus spectabilis, with reddish-purple flowers (11)

18 Form of music for Scottish bagpipes consisting of a theme and variations (7)

19 1845 novel by Benjamin Disraeli (5)

21 See 7

22 Peter Yates film starring Steve McQueen in the title role (7)

DOWN

1 & 17 That part of the North Sea north and east of Inverness, Scotland (5,5)

2 & 16 1953 novel by Ian Fleming (6,6)

3 In baseball, an instance of a batter touching all four bases safely (3)

4 Rossano, actor who played Emile de Becque in the 1958 film musical South Pacific (6)

5 Light waterproof jacket with a hood (7)

8 André, motor car manufacturer who began selling cars under his own name in 1919 (7)

11 Annual plant cultivated for its dark green edible leaves (7)

13 Tropical climbing orchid whose long fleshy pods contain beans used to flavour food (7)

15 River which forms part of Slovakia's border with the Czech Republic and Austria (6)

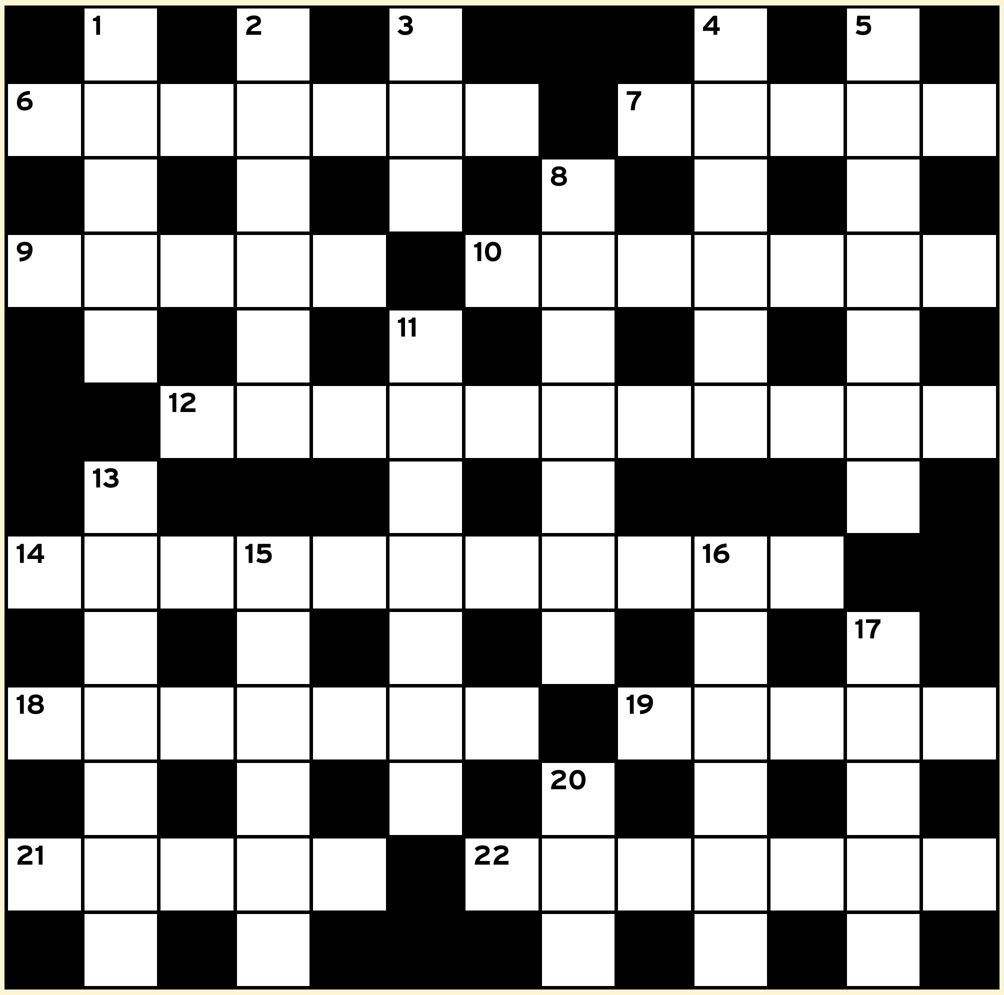
16 See 2

17 See 1

20 The derived SI unit of illumination (3)

Solution tomorrow

Stuck on the puzzle? Call
0905 789 4190
to hear individual clues or the full solution
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*
Service provider Spoke Ltd -
Helpline 0333 202 3390



SAMURAI SUDOKU

In Samurai Sudoku, normal sudoku rules apply, but the 9x9 sudoku at the centre shares four of its 3x3 boxes with those of the outer sudokus.

Solution tomorrow

1		3				5	4					3			1					4
				5	9		6					8		4		2				7
		8			2		7					2				4	6			
	1		5			9		8					6					8	9	
8	6			9												1	4		2	
			3	2				6					2	7			9			
					6				5									1		3
7	2	6								7					4		1			
			2		5					4	8				8			4		2
						7		9				3								
									4		3		2	7						
						3		6				4								
			5		9					9	4				4			7		1
5	2	7								8					3		9			
					4				6									2		5
			6	8				5					2	6			4			
2	7			3												1	7		6	
	4		2			7		1					8					9	4	
		9			3		2					7				4	1			
				7	2		1					9		5		6				8
7		2				5	8					6			9					4

WORD BUILDER

Answer each clue so that every word contains the same letters as the previous word, plus or minus one.

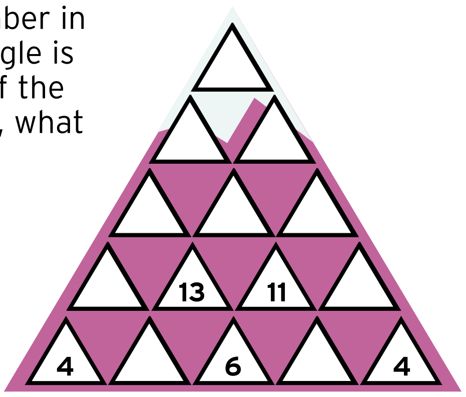
Solution tomorrow

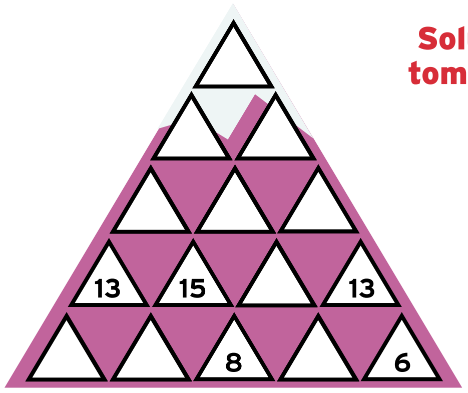
1 ☐☐☐
2 ☐☐☐☐
3 ☐☐☐☐☐☐
4 ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐
5 ☐☐☐☐☐☐
6 ☐☐☐☐
7 ☐☐☐

1 Flipper
2 Slender
3 Simulate
4 Digit
5 Rule
6 Smile
7 Gear

SUMMIT UP

If the number in each triangle is the sum of the two below, what is the top number?





Solution tomorrow

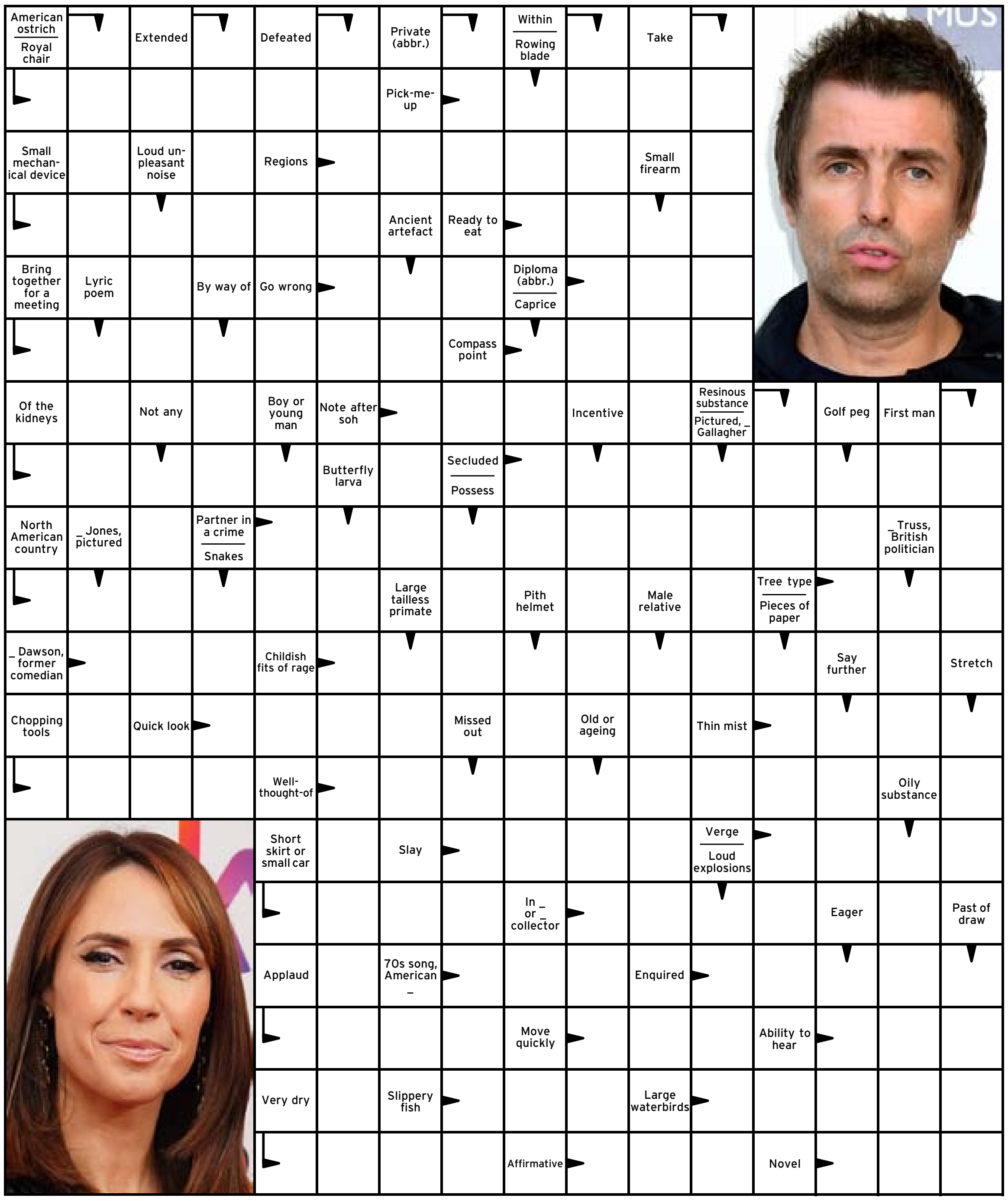
SMALL CROSSWORD

Across:
1 Gatecrash,
7 In a row,
9 Fern,
10 Ulcer,
12 Also,
13 Waistcoat,
14 Riot,
16 Aggro,
18 Each,
19 Supple,
20 Insistent.
Down:
1 Gift-wrap,
2 Tarn,
3 Ernest,
4 Courteous,
5 Arc,
6 Seesaw,
8 Crotchet,
11 Saigon,
12 Accept,
15 Nape,
17 Gus.

ARROW-WORD

Arrow-words are like crosswords, but the clues are printed inside squares on the grid. Write your answers in the blank squares in the direction indicated by the arrows.

Solution tomorrow


American ostrich
Royal chair
Extended
Defeated
Private (abbr.)
Within
Rowing blade
Take
Pick-me-up
Small mechanical device
Loud unpleasant noise
Regions
Small firearm
Ancient artefact
Ready to eat
Bring together for a meeting
Lyric poem
By way of
Go wrong
Diploma (abbr.)
Caprice
Compass point
Of the kidneys
Not any
Boy or young man
Note after soh
Incentive
Resinous substance
Pictured, _ Gallagher
Golf peg
First man
Butterfly larva
Secluded
Possess
North American country
_ Jones, pictured
Partner in a crime
Snakes
_ Truss, British politician
Large tailless primate
Pith helmet
Male relative
Tree type
Pieces of paper
_ Dawson, former comedian
Childish fits of rage
Say further
Stretch
Chopping tools
Quick look
Missed out
Old or ageing
Thin mist
Well-thought-of
Oily substance
Short skirt or small car
Slay
Verge
Loud explosions
In _ or _ collector
Eager
Past of draw
Applaud
70s song, American _
Enquired
Move quickly
Ability to hear
Very dry
Slippery fish
Large waterbirds
Affirmative
Novel

WORDSEARCH

E	Y	X	H	L	R	I	G	Y	N	N	U	F	U	S
I	A	O	L	I	V	E	R	O	N	N	Y	L	S	W
N	R	G	M	G	V	M	X	C	O	D	S	R	T	E
N	P	A	B	Y	C	N	D	G	A	N	E	N	P	S
A	S	C	Q	N	N	A	I	L	I	H	T	D	G	T
S	R	I	Z	M	O	A	R	P	T	H	O	E	R	S
E	I	H	R	Z	S	I	P	O	E	U	S	A	E	I
G	A	C	L	S	A	O	R	M	U	U	S	B	A	D
A	H	X	S	F	P	B	Y	N	O	S	S	X	S	E
F	E	I	Y	Y	D	I	X	H	A	C	E	B	E	S
O	M	M	R	O	B	W	R	S	X	B	F	L	M	T
K	C	A	O	L	Q	U	S	L	L	F	M	W	Z	O
C	M	L	I	R	O	I	G	N	Z	D	I	V	V	R
O	B	V	Z	Q	N	P	D	E	K	C	I	W	Z	Y
R	H	Z	P	S	W	E	E	N	E	Y	T	O	D	D

MUSICALS

Find all the terms listed below in the grid.

Solution tomorrow

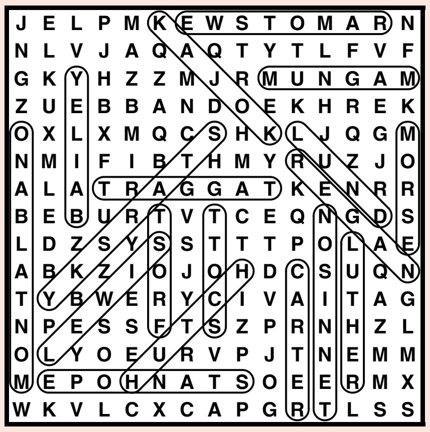
ANNIE ● ASSASSINS ● BLOOD BROTHERS
CAROUSEL ● CHICAGO ● COMPANY
FUNNY GIRL ● GREASE ● HAIRSPRAY
MARY POPPINS ● MISS SAIGON
MY FAIR LADY ● OLIVER! ● OUR HOUSE
ROCK OF AGES ● SWEENEY TODD
WEST SIDE STORY ● WICKED

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

QUICK CROSSWORD

Across: 1 Indefinite, **7** Eaten, **8** Logical, **10** Duration, **11** Plot, **13** Tycoon, **15** Gander, **17** Open, **18** Maltreat, **21** Garland, **22** Swear, **23** Inclemency. **Down: 1** Inter, **2** Donation, **3** Follow, **4** Nigh, **5** Tackled, **6** Headstrong, **9** Literature, **12** Partisan, **14** Chevron, **16** Tandem, **19** Enemy, **20** Fall.

WORDSEARCH



J	E	L	P	M	K	E	W	S	T	O	M	A	R	N
N	L	V	J	A	Q	A	Q	T	Y	T	L	F	V	F
G	K	Y	H	Z	Z	M	J	R	M	U	N	G	A	M
Z	U	E	B	B	A	N	D	O	E	K	H	R	E	K
O	X	L	X	M	Q	C	S	H	K	L	J	Q	G	M
N	M	I	F	I	B	T	H	M	Y	R	U	Z	J	O
A	L	A	T	R	A	G	G	A	T	K	E	N	R	R
B	E	B	U	R	T	V	T	C	E	Q	N	G	D	S
L	D	Z	S	Y	S	S	T	T	T	P	O	L	A	E
A	B	K	Z	I	O	J	O	H	D	C	S	U	Q	N
T	Y	B	W	E	R	Y	C	I	V	A	I	T	A	G
N	P	E	S	S	F	T	S	Z	P	R	N	H	Z	L
O	L	Y	O	E	U	R	V	P	J	T	N	E	M	M
M	E	P	O	H	N	A	T	S	O	E	E	R	M	X
W	K	V	L	C	X	C	A	P	G	R	T	L	S	S

ARROW-WORD

		F		L		E			D		W				
G	U	I	D	E		P	E	S	E	T	A				
	P	R	E	V	A	I	L		P	H	I				
G	R	I	M	Y		T	E	N	O	R	S				
	O	N	E		G	O	V		S	I	T				
	A	G	R	A		M	E	D	I	C					
	R		A	L	I	E	N	A	T	E	D		O		P
Z		C	R	A	B			F			I	R	A	T	E
O		H	A	B	I	T	A	T	I	O	N		S	E	A
E	G	O		A	S	A	P		O	B	E	L	I	S	K
	L	I	A	M		B	A	N	N	E	D		S	T	Y
M	E	C	C	A			C	O	S	Y		R		T	
	N	E	T		U	S	E	S		E	Y	E	F	U	L
				L	A	H		E		D	A	N	U	B	E
					E	A	T				R	O	M	E	O
						R	O	L	L	E	D		B		
				C	A	P	T	A	I	N		P	L	O	T
					P	L	A	C	E	D		R	E	D	O
				S	T	Y	L	E	S		P	O	S	E	R

SUDOKU EASY

5	2	8	3	4	6	9	1	7
3	1	7	5	9	2	4	8	6
6	9	4	1	8	7	2	5	3
2	8	9	6	1	3	7	4	5
1	7	5	8	2	4	3	6	9
4	3	6	7	5	9	1	2	8
7	4	1	9	6	8	5	3	2
9	6	2	4	3	5	8	7	1
8	5	3	2	7	1	6	9	4

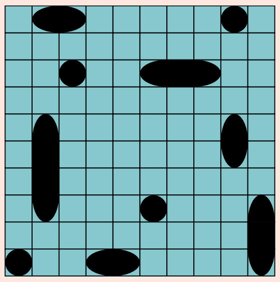
SUDOKU MEDIUM

2	9	4	8	3	1	6	7	5
5	3	8	6	2	7	4	9	1
1	7	6	4	9	5	2	8	3
6	1	5	2	4	9	8	3	7
4	2	7	1	8	3	9	5	6
9	8	3	7	5	6	1	4	2
7	6	9	3	1	8	5	2	4
3	5	2	9	6	4	7	1	8
8	4	1	5	7	2	3	6	9

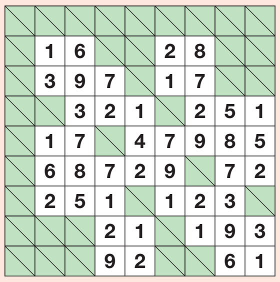
SUDOKU DIFFICULT

4	7	1	6	3	2	5	8	9
3	9	2	4	8	5	6	7	1
5	6	8	7	9	1	3	2	4
6	4	7	1	5	8	9	3	2
1	2	5	9	6	3	8	4	7
9	8	3	2	7	4	1	6	5
7	1	9	8	2	6	4	5	3
2	5	6	3	4	9	7	1	8
8	3	4	5	1	7	2	9	6

BATTLESHIPS



KAKURO



	1	6			2	8		
	3	9	7		1	7		
		3	2	1		2	5	1
	1	7		4	7	9	8	5
	6	8	7	2	9		7	2
	2	5	1		1	2	3	
			2	1		1	9	3
			9	2			6	1

WORD BUILDER

Rot, Tore, Trove, Vortex, Overt, Veto, Vet

TARGET

OUTFITTER
euro, foie, fore, fort, forte, four, otter, outer, outfit, OUTFITTER, outre, riot, rote, roti, roue, rout, route, tiro, tofu, tore, tort, torte, tote, totter, tour, tout, touter, trio, trot, trout, tutor

THE ALPHAPUZZLE

Across: Lady, Liqueurs, Pumpkin, Dishy, Throw, Torpid, Camera, Dingle, Indigo, Julep, Exile, Incisor, Lunatics, Brag (clue). **Down:** Lipstick, Veil, Demur, Mansion, Skewer, Inept, Ignite, Zodiac, Under, Inject, Upswing, Laser, Soya, Leapfrog.

THE ALPHABEATER

Black squares: 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 13, 15, 19, 20, 25, 27, 34, 37, 40. **Across:** Family, Album, Pigeon, Euchre, Clerical, Obtrusive, Prejudge, Wheeze, Orates, Drift, Export. **Down:** Waved, Exploit, Cajole, Such, Tax, Decor, Disco, Maple, Skews, Lug, Earn, Cheque, Kindled, Hefty.

CROSS DOUBT

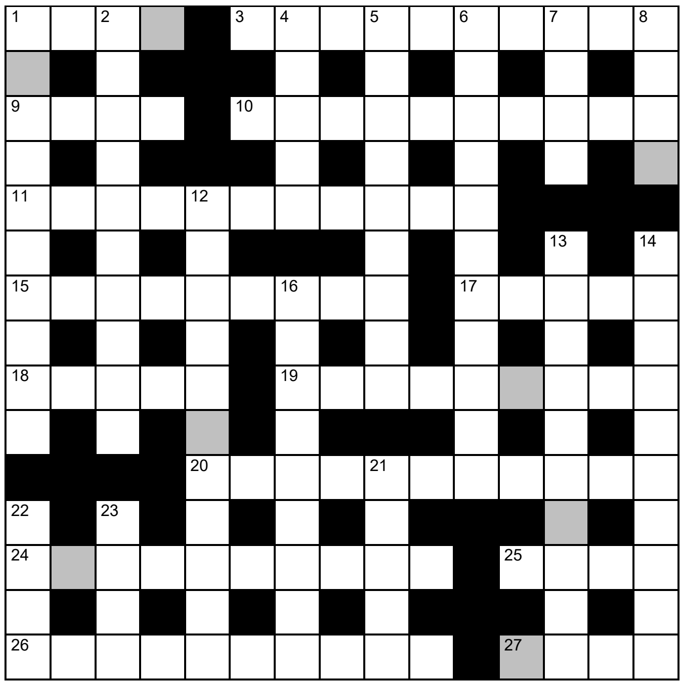
Across: COMFY
Down: CHAIR

Puzzles

CRUSADER PRIZE CROSSWORD

ACROSS
- **1** Rear fellow on documents (4)
- **3** Scrutiny affected nice points (10)
- **9** Put off by old scheming (2,2)
- **10** Got down as diameter is increased (10)
- **11** Legible rent review is aggressive (11)
- **15** Weapon? Time to churn one out (9)
- **17** Travelling on her river (5)
- **18** Large order for a beer (5)
- **19** I will leave the first amount that's stolen (3-6)
- **20** Church official by river finding cordial ingredient (11)
- **24** Medicine men get man on a table and succeeded (10)
- **25** It revolved on city being minute (4)
- **26** Long girdle worn by popular woman (6,4)
- **27** Stagger for part of the film (4)

DOWN
- **1** Fly down to container (10)
- **2** Frenchman with tale about illness and science (10)
- **4** Green one found in part of church (5)
- **5** Irrational politician forces leer holding new flower (9)
- **6** Stub sword behind table (11)
- **7** I return to a small amount (4)
- **8** Uncovered a painting (4)
- **12** Imprison for unnatural career antic (11)
- **13** Throw away spell that's useful (10)
- **14** Regal coin initiates plant (10)
- **16** Log divine manoeuvre as wickedness (9)
- **21** Blade that's reversible (5)
- **22** The first to embrace a hooligan (4)
- **23** Good, without introduction being spoken (4)



WIN £100 CASH

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN
Read down the letters in the highlighted squares to reveal the mystery word.

TO ENTER: Call **0904 161 3700** (calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge) and leave your answer and details, or text **DXCRUS** followed by a space, your answer, name and address details to **88833** (texts cost £1.50 plus your standard network rate). Lines close at midnight Saturday. Or send your grid containing the answer in the shaded squares by posting it to: Crusader Crossword, January 13, PO Box 8694, Derby DE1 9TW. Entries must be postmarked by January 14 at the latest. For any postal enquiries, call helpline number. SP: Spoke – 0333 202 3390.
An extra day is given for postal entries during bank holidays.

● ***One weekly winner will be the first random correct entry drawn from all entry routes after the closing date of midnight Saturday. Competition runs Sunday to Saturday. The Editor's decision is final.***

NEED HELP? Call **0904 161 1609** for 5 extra clues! Calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge.

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

LAST FRIDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Round Table, 6 Leap, 10 Data set, 11 Vampire, 12 Remainder, 13 Lithe, 14 Motel, 15 Patriotic, 17 Lemon drop, 20 Tacos, 21 Safer, 23 Abyssinia, 25 Exclaim, 26 Brioche, 27 Lute, 28 Ethereally. **DOWN:** 1 Rider, 2 Ultimatum, 3 Disciplinarian, 4 Acted up, 5 Leveret, 7 Evict, 8 Pretences, 9 Small intestine, 14 Mild steel, 16 Technical, 18 Readmit, 19 Payable, 22 Facet, 24 Apery. **Prizeword:** Breather

TARGET

T	R	E
D	C	A
O	O	R

● *The Target uses words in the main body of Chambers 21st Century Dictionary (1999 edition)*

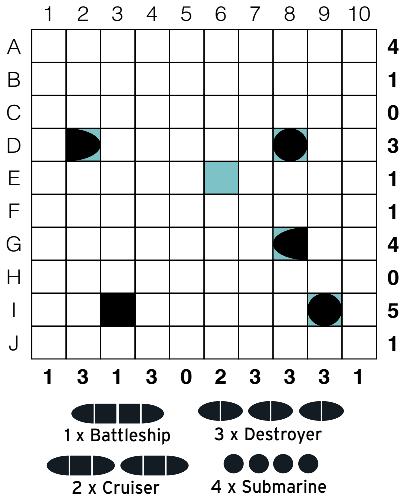
HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here?
In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word. No plurals. Verb forms ending in S permitted.

TODAY'S TARGET
Good 32; **very good** 48; **excellent** 63 **(or more). Solution tomorrow**

Call **0907 181 2585**
for today's Target solution
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

BATTLESHIPS

FIND where the fleet of ships shown is hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some squares have been filled in to start you off.
Solution tomorrow



THE ALPHABEATER

TARGET TIME: 36 minutes

CAN you crack the Alphabeater? Each grid number represents a letter – or black square. As in Alphapuzzle, every letter of the alphabet is used. But you have to complete the grid too! Use the given letters and black squares below the grid to start. The grid is 'rotationally symmetrical' – in other words, it looks the same if you turn the page upside down.
Solution tomorrow

Extra letter clues
0907 181 2560
(Deduct three minutes for each extra clue letter heard)
Full solution
0907 181 2558
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

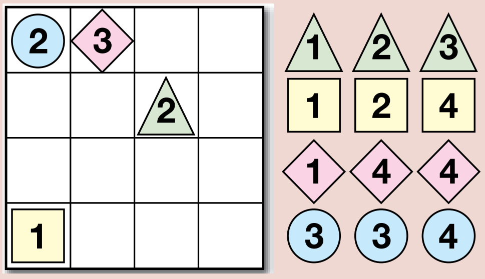
A B	40	38	21	38	25	39	3	26	20	19	16	15	14
C D	6	14	15	5	32	13	18	36	14	31	30	38	25
E F	23	5	11	33	14	6	8	12	29	14	15	9	18
~~G~~ H	32	18	26	23	17	13	34	5	38	25	19	34	19
I J	34	40	3	18	28	12	20	31	12	18	23	6	4
K L	35	39	16	22	37	27	15	10	9	33	38	7	34
~~M~~ N	31	26	4	21	38	40	31	25	25	38	12	29	27
O P	30	38	35	31	39	38	17	34	4	1	37	29	27
Q R	20	9	37	18	4	2	32	15	33	28	30	13	36
S T	22	34	24	11	34	36	30	36	16	4	12	38	39
U ~~V~~	11	12	32	36	17	6	2	16	38	36	8	36	17
W X	1	18	25	25	11	19	34	36	37	14	20	30	26
Y Z	8	6	29	28	23	4	34	9	10	38	8	34	19

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
					■									■					

21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
V						G						M							

● Alternatively, for six Extra Letter clues to your mobile, text **DXBEAT to 64343.** Texts cost £1 plus standard network rate.

KEIJO



Place the tiles into the grid so that four different numbers and four different shapes appear in each row and column.
Solution tomorrow

THE ALPHAPUZZLE®

Alphapuzzle® tests logic and word power. Each grid number stands for a letter. Every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter or letters – below the main grid – to start. **Solution tomorrow**

DIFFICULTY: 8/10; **TARGET:** 27 mins; **CLUE:** Spasm as faction enters empty theatre.

A B	20	10	4	4	5	7	■	3	24	10	8	2	21
C D	■	26	■	6	■	14	21	21	■	24	■	16	■
E F	4	2	9	13	■	6	■	4	■	5	16	16	11
G H	■	11	■	23	10	9	13	26	10	9	■	21	■
I J	18	21	11	7	■	13	■	6	■	13	21	4	26
~~K~~ L	6	■	9	■	22	21	11	7	11	■	12	■	10
M N	3	5	5	4	■	■	23	■	■	11	3	10	4
O P	21	■	5	■	10	17	1	11	11	■	21	■	4
Q R	4	10	3	7	■	5	■	7	■	3	24	10	1
S T	■	24	■	5	16	16	17	10	24	24	■	24	■
U V	11	7	21	3	■	6	■	25	■	10	25	6	9
W X	■	10	■	10	■	24	6	21	■	9	■	10	■
Y Z	15	4	6	19	19	1	■	16	21	7	21	11	7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13

14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
											K	

EXTRA LETTER CLUES: 0907 181 2568*
Hear up to six Extra Letters, deduct two minutes for each clue letter heard.
FULL SOLUTION: **0907 181 2565***
ACROSS ONLY: **0907 181 2561*** / DOWN ONLY: **0907 181 2562***
**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

Alternatively, for six extra letter clues direct to your mobile, text **DXALPHA** *to* **64343.** *Texts cost £1 plus standard network rate.*

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THE DAILY EXPRESS 30-SECOND CHALLENGE

TODAY'S ANSWERS: BEGINNER = 56; INTERMEDIATE = 188; ADVANCED = 5.

PLAY MORE CROSSWORDS AND GAMES AT EXPRESS.CO.UK/PUZZLES

SP: Spoke – ***Helpline 0333 202 3390***

DAILY EXPRESS

A glorious winter day in the gardens at Quarry Bank Mill, Styal, Cheshire

Get out and about for better health and happiness at some of the most spectacular sites in England, Wales and Northern Ireland this year with FREE family passes worth up to £50

NEW YEAR, NEW YOU

AT THE National Trust

NEW YEAR, NEW YOU... AT THE National Trust

WINTER WALKS TO

By **Matt Nixson**

Days out at some of the National Trust's most stunning locations will help get your New Year off to a healthy, mindful and sparkling start...

THERE'S nothing nicer than stepping out into the fresh air on a crisp winter's day – especially after Christmas excesses. And across England, Wales and Northern Ireland, the National Trust has something for all the family. There are fragrant winter gardens, acres of frost-sprinkled deer parks, winding coastal paths and ancient woodland trails dusted by snow. So pull on your gloves and hat, wrap up warm and enjoy stunning scenery and the sights and sounds of the outdoors. You'll be doing mind and body a big favour.

DUNHAM MASSEY, GREATER MANCHESTER

The meandering paths of one of the UK's largest winter gardens form the stunning backdrop to Dunham Massey's historic Georgian house and gardens. Where better to start than the 300-acre deer park? The roaming fallow deer are easier to spot through the leafless trees and the estate's historic buildings take on a new beauty at this time of year.

Dunham Massey's winter gardens feature more than 1,600 winter shrubs, trees and evergreens, chosen for their scent, colour and texture. One of the National Trust's most accessible locations, with miles of flat, wide paths in the parkland and gardens, with personal mobility scooters and wheelchairs available for hire.

SIZERGH, CUMBRIA

Set against the dramatic backdrop of the Lakeland Fells, the Pennines and Morecambe Bay, the Sizergh estate boasts interlinked family garden areas developed over 800 years, including the Stumpery, the Dutch Garden and Kitchen Garden. Seasonal highlights at this gateway to the Lake District include the sweet smell of winter flowering honeysuckle along the Herbaceous Border and hedgehog holly on the south terrace, plus winter is the only time you can see the skeletons of the acers and the bare bones of the Rock Garden.

Out on the wider estate, a circular loop of just under a mile, perfect for a gentle stroll, takes in ancient woodland, traditional Westmorland orchards and a historic farm.

Stunning frosty frontage of Blickling Hall, Norfolk, main. Left, exploring the Winter Garden at Bodnant, Conwy

BODNANT GARDEN, CONWY

Set against the dramatic backdrop of the Carneddau mountains of Eryri (Snowdonia), Bodnant boasts some of the most stunning year-round colour in the country in its 80 acres of gardens, the result of 150 years of horticultural endeavour by the Pochin and McLaren families. A gentle and wheelchair accessible 0.5-mile circular trail through the winter garden is a delight for all the senses. Elsewhere visitors can enjoy the splendour of bare trees against frosty blue skies in The Glades, towering evergreens in the Dell, wintry reflections on the lake in the Far End and panoramic views of snow-capped peaks from The Terraces and Furnace hillside.

ANGLESEY ABBEY, CAMBS

Anglesey Abbey has 114 acres of landscaped gardens to explore and a renowned sensory winter garden – positioned to be illuminated by the low winter sun and planted with the likes of Tilia Cordata "Winter Orange" and Red-barked Dogwood for their scent, texture and bright colours. The Jacobean-style house's iconic grove of ghostly silver birches is not to be missed and nearby is one of the finest snowdrop collections in the country – with an extraordinary 400 varieties.

A gentle stroll through the wider estate on the three-mile circular walk takes in woodland, tree-lined avenues and winding paths through the historic gardens.

NOSTELL, WEST YORKSHIRE

With 300 acres to explore, visitors can enjoy the varied landscapes of meadows, lakes and woodlands at Nostell. The changing seasons bring new life and colour throughout the year and winter is no exception. Try the wellness trail, created in collaboration with Mindful Movers, a Wakefield-based mental health walking group, linking ten benches carefully placed in tranquil areas by lakes and under tree canopies in the parkland. At each bench, you'll find words of advice and mindful activities to help you stop and appreciate the present moment.

Later, marvel at the neo-classical Obelisk Lodge, built in 1777, then take in the house vista and enjoy a picture-perfect view of the fabulous Georgian mansion.

DINEFWR ESTATE, NEAR LLANDEILO, CARMARTHENSHIRE

The 800-acre Dinefwr Estate is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and the country's first parkland National Nature Reserve. The ancient woodland, equally beguiling in winter as in summer, is home to some of the UK's oldest trees – including more than 300 oak trees, some of which are 400 years old.

Enter Castle Woods and climb up to Dinefwr Castle (managed by Cadw) for views over the landscape influenced by the famed 18th century designer, Lancelot "Capability" Brown. Enjoy vistas of seventeenth century Newton House, historic home of the Rhys Family, at the centre of the estate. You might catch a glimpse of an otter or woodpecker in the 800 acres of parkland and woodland.

The local White Park Cattle, an ancient rare breed, historically linked to Dinefwr, might be tucked up in the cattle shed for winter but there's plenty more to see.

TARN HOWS, LAKE DISTRICT

Enjoy spectacular views of the Lake District's fells on this easy, accessible walk around a tree-lined tarn for all the family. With tramper all-terrain scooters available to borrow, visitors who are less mobile can keep pace with their walking companions.

The full trail takes in almost two miles of some of the most beautiful scenery the Lake District has to offer and takes around one hour at a gentle pace. And it's equally stunning in the winter when everything is

Winter vista at Tarn Hows in the Lakes

STROLL INTO 2026

Pictures: NATIONAL TRUST IMAGES/JUSTIN MINNS/PAUL HARRIS/ANNAPURNA MELLOR/CHRIS LACEY

Winter sun over Dunham Massey in Greater Manchester

Visitors enjoy the adventure playground at Nostell, West Yorks

frosted, the trees are bare and the water gleams in the low seasonal sunlight. Beatrix Potter and her husband William Heelis negotiated to buy the estate containing the picturesque tarn for £15,000 in 1930 – relying on the National Trust to be able to appeal to the public to raise enough to buy back 2,090 acres.

So you're literally walking in the late author's footsteps.

CALKE ABBEY, DERBYSHIRE

Stroll across the 600-acre grounds shaped by centuries of estate life, watch fallow deer roaming the grounds and come face-to-face with the Old Man of Calke, the estate's oldest tree. It's more than 1,000 years old and is a relic of the ancient wood pasture that predates even the original 12th century Augustinian priory.

Many centuries of pollarding have given it a squat, tree-man appearance. Enjoy a leisurely stroll along the Tramway Trail, an accessible figure-of-eight route which follows the old horse-drawn tramway that linked Ticknall to Ashby. It's suitable for cyclists, walkers, wheelchairs and pushchairs so you can tailor your adventure to suit you. Dogs are free to roam the parkland under close control.

ROWALLANE GARDEN, COUNTY DOWN, NORTHERN IRELAND

Unusual plants, seasonal colour palettes and striking features make Rowallane a must-visit at this time of year. Carved into the County Down landscape, it's grown from its 19th-century beginnings at the hands of Reverend John Moore and his nephew Hugh Armytage Moore, but their vision – to create a place where visitors could leave the cares of the world behind and immerse themselves in nature – lives on.

Stroll through the mix of formal and informal spaces with breathtaking vistas across the County Down countryside. Take a stroll among winter flowering viburnums, mahonia and the fragrant flowers of witch hazel. Also look out for sarcococca; otherwise aptly known as the Christmas Box, with its strong scent. A warren of walks are available across the estate, including a Woodland Walk which leads walkers around the Victorian Rock Garden and into the Old Wood, and a farmland trail to the summit of Trio Hill, with views over County Down.

TRELISSICK, CORNWALL

Surrounded on three sides by the River Fal, the estate commands an impressive position, looking down Carrick Roads to Falmouth, and no trip to Trelissick is complete without a gentle stroll around the panoramic parkland, with maritime views, or a walk in the secluded oak woodlands. From Trelissick to the 18th century quay at Roundwood is a popular circular one-mile route, or there is a longer four-mile route. For plant enthusiasts, hidden paths twist through the garden and offer their own spectacular views. Wherever you choose to explore, the culture and wildlife of the river is never far away this winter.

BLICKLING ESTATE, NORFOLK

More than 4,600 acres of historic woodland, parkland and farmland surround this stunning Jacobean mansion with ancient yew hedges in the heart of Norfolk's beautiful Bure meadows.

The 55-acre formal gardens, the result of three centuries of careful planting, are the perfect place to lose yourself for an hour or two, even in winter, while the parkland is perfect for exploring on foot or by bike or with a canine companion. Try the four-mile multi-use trail, which goes around the perimeter of the park and is accessible for buggies and young children, as well as those using wheelchairs and mobility aids. Afterwards, explore the Walled Garden and enjoy a seasonal produce snack at the Stables Café.

CLIVEDEN, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

High above the River Thames with breath-taking views, the magnificent gardens at Cliveden have been delighting visitors for centuries. The extraordinary estate, home to one of the National Trust's most significant sculpture collections, offers 80 acres of year-round interest and colour, from the geometric bedding scheme of the parterre, to an Oriental-inspired Water Garden and Lord Astor's sculpture collection and the impressive Cliveden Maze.

There are spaces for everyone to enjoy, for quiet reflection or time with loved ones at any time of year. Stroll through Cliveden's woodlands this winter and follow paths dusted with frost and falling leaves. Explore tree-lined rides and viewpoints framed by the season's rich colours. Keep an eye out for the estate's quirky treasures – from a flint grotto to a giant slice of a Californian redwood – left behind by the families who have called Cliveden home.

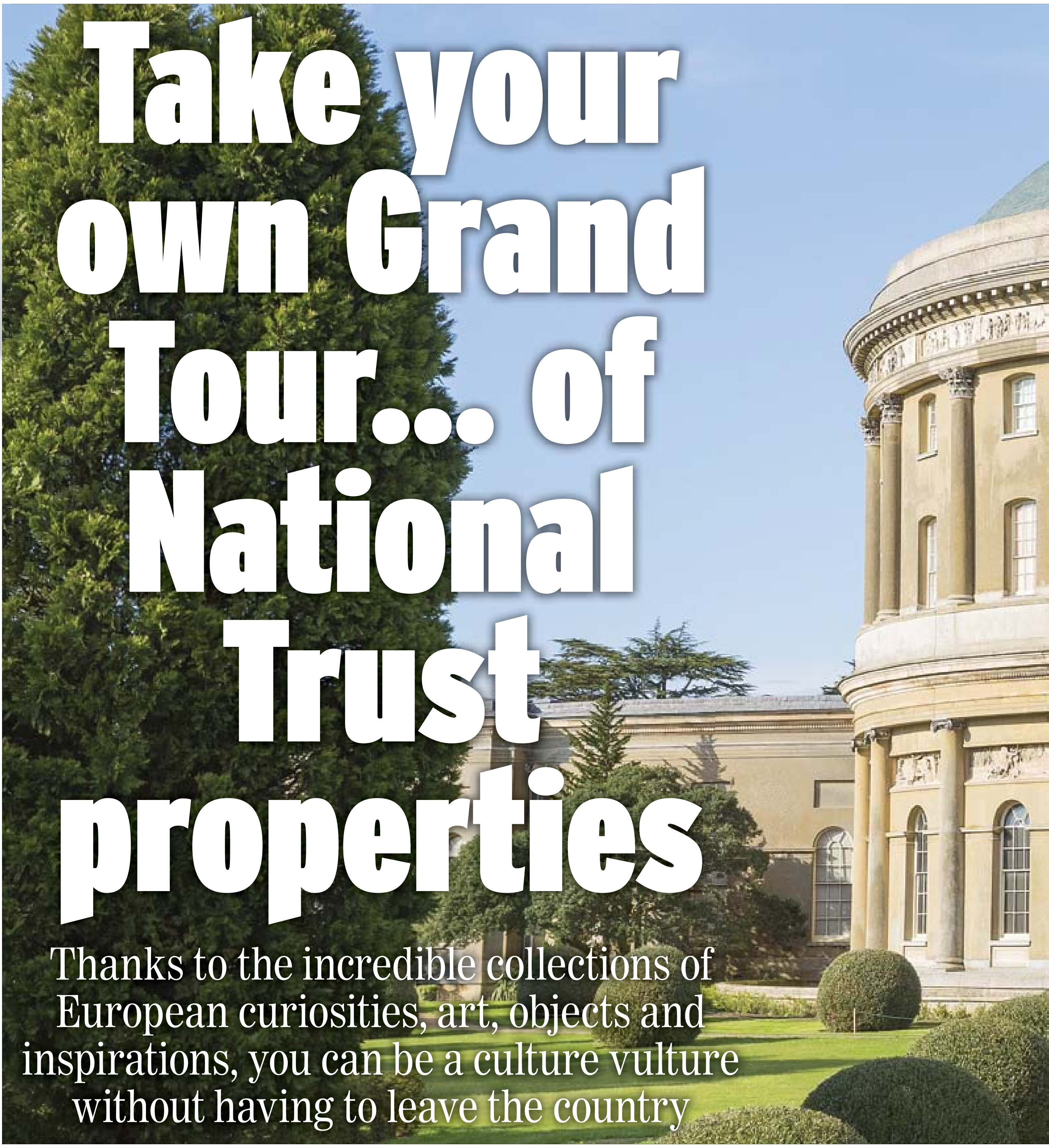
MOTTISFONT, HAMPSHIRE

Set amid picturesque riverside gardens, Mottisfont is at its beautiful best at this time of year. On a winter's morning the huge lawns and towering trees surrounding this 18th century house, once a medieval priory, are tinged with frost, and mist rises from the garden's many waterways. From mid-January there are snowdrop displays and snowdrop poetry on a self-led walk, and free guided garden walks. Carpets of daffodils start to appear from February and a fragrant winter garden is a feast for the senses – discover the garden team's top 10 winter garden plants, from delicate hellebores to richly scented witch hazel.

A wander along the sparkling chalk stream takes you on a pleasant loop out to meadows behind the house and back to the garden, or try a longer, downloadable walk across Mottisfont's estate or up Stockbridge Down a few miles away, just some of the 1,600 acres of glorious woodland, tenanted farmland and downland the Trust looks after in the local area.

Take your own Grand Tour... of National Trust properties

Thanks to the incredible collections of European curiosities, art, objects and inspirations, you can be a culture vulture without having to leave the country



Unique Florentine lapis lazuli cabinet at Belton, Lincs

By **Matt Nixson**

DURING the 18th century, the Grand Tour was thought to be the best way to complete an upper-class education. Young aristocrats travelled to the continent, usually starting in Paris then moving south to Spain or Italy, where they visited ancient sites to learn about classical culture, grow in maturity and come back with polish and sophistication.

Travelling could be slow and dangerous. One Grand Tourist, the Second Earl of Enniskillen, took two days to travel by boat from Naples to Palermo – a journey which would take only an hour by plane today. The same tourist crossed the Alps on a mule – though some travellers did this journey on a sedan chair, carried on poles by two porters.

Today many extraordinary objects – from paintings (including portraits – the selfies of their time) to books, documents, furniture and other curios – are on display at National Trust properties. So while it's cold and wet, you can still get your culture fix – and there's no need to jump on a packed plane or brave the Channel Tunnel!

Copies of famous antiquities were popular Grand Tour souvenirs for the wealthy. One must-see statue was The Wrestlers – now in the Uffizi Gallery in Florence.

The statue shows two men engaged in "pankration", a contest with some similarities to wrestling and boxing. A life-size copy was probably bought by John Frederick Sackville, 3rd Duke of Dorset, during a lavish Grand Tour in 1769. You can see it at 600-year-old **Knole House in Kent** alongside one of the world's rarest collections of Stuart-era furniture, paintings and textiles.

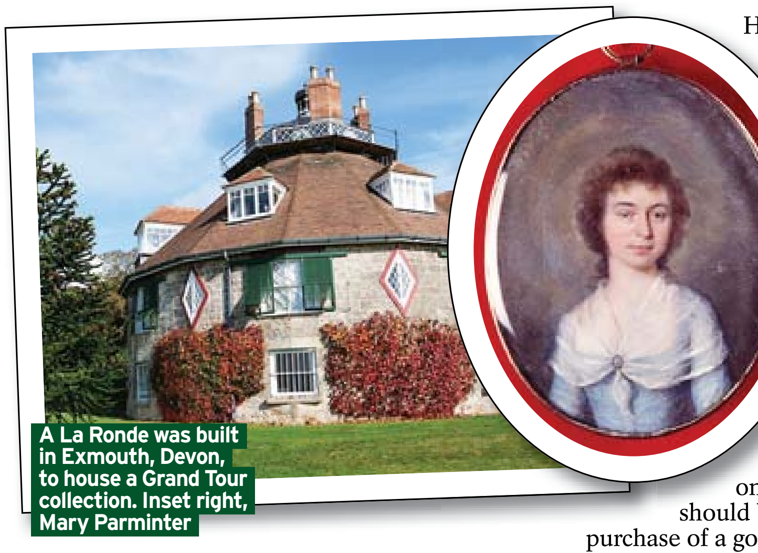
Likewise, a little bronze boar, part of the collection at **Belton House, Grantham, Lincs**, is a miniature copy of a statue called Il Porcellino, now also housed in the Uffizi Gallery. There is another copy on a fountain in Florence, where tourists rub the boar's snout to ensure a happy return visit to the city.

Also at Belton, where generations of the Brownlow family made their home, is a wonderful cabinet, covered almost entirely with lapis lazuli (a semi-precious stone prized for its deep blue colour). Thought to have been made in Rome around 1640, it takes inspiration from the facades of Italian Renaissance churches. Lapis was usually used only in small amounts, which makes this extraordinary cabinet unique.

Another incredible piece of furniture resides at **Blickling Hall, Norfolk**, where an elaborate cassone – an Italian chest for storing precious items – was brought back from the Grand Tour by William Schomberg Kerr. Its painted sides show three Kings drawn in chariots in a triumphal procession and Hercules slaying the Nemean Lion from Greek Mythology. The cassone was thought to be an 18th century copy, until conservation work showed that it's a genuine medieval chest from the 14th century.

A Roman marble statue showing a brave – or perhaps foolish – wildcat playing with a snake was bought by Robert Clive during his Grand Tour of Italy in 1773-4. He offered lavish sums of money so that he could bring it home for his wife Margaret, who was fond of cats. The sculpture, at 13th century **Powis Castle, Welshpool**, is unique, because depictions of cats are rare in Roman art. It is thought one of Clive's descendants, George Herbert, brought home a rare pietre dure (Italian for hard stone) table during his Grand Tour. Its marble top is inlaid with semi-precious stones arranged to depict birds, crickets, snails and flowers – supported by curious creatures with lion masks, human torsos and even hairy paws! Never meant for dining, it was a feature piece to show sophistication and taste.

Not everyone admired it; one guest suggested the table should be sold to pay for "the purchase of a good English dining table". Powis's baroque State Bedroom, designed to accommodate royal visits, features a gilded mahogany and crimson silk cut-velvet covered bed – a sign of wealth and status inspired by a French visit.



A La Ronde was built in Exmouth, Devon, to house a Grand Tour collection. Inset right, Mary Parminter

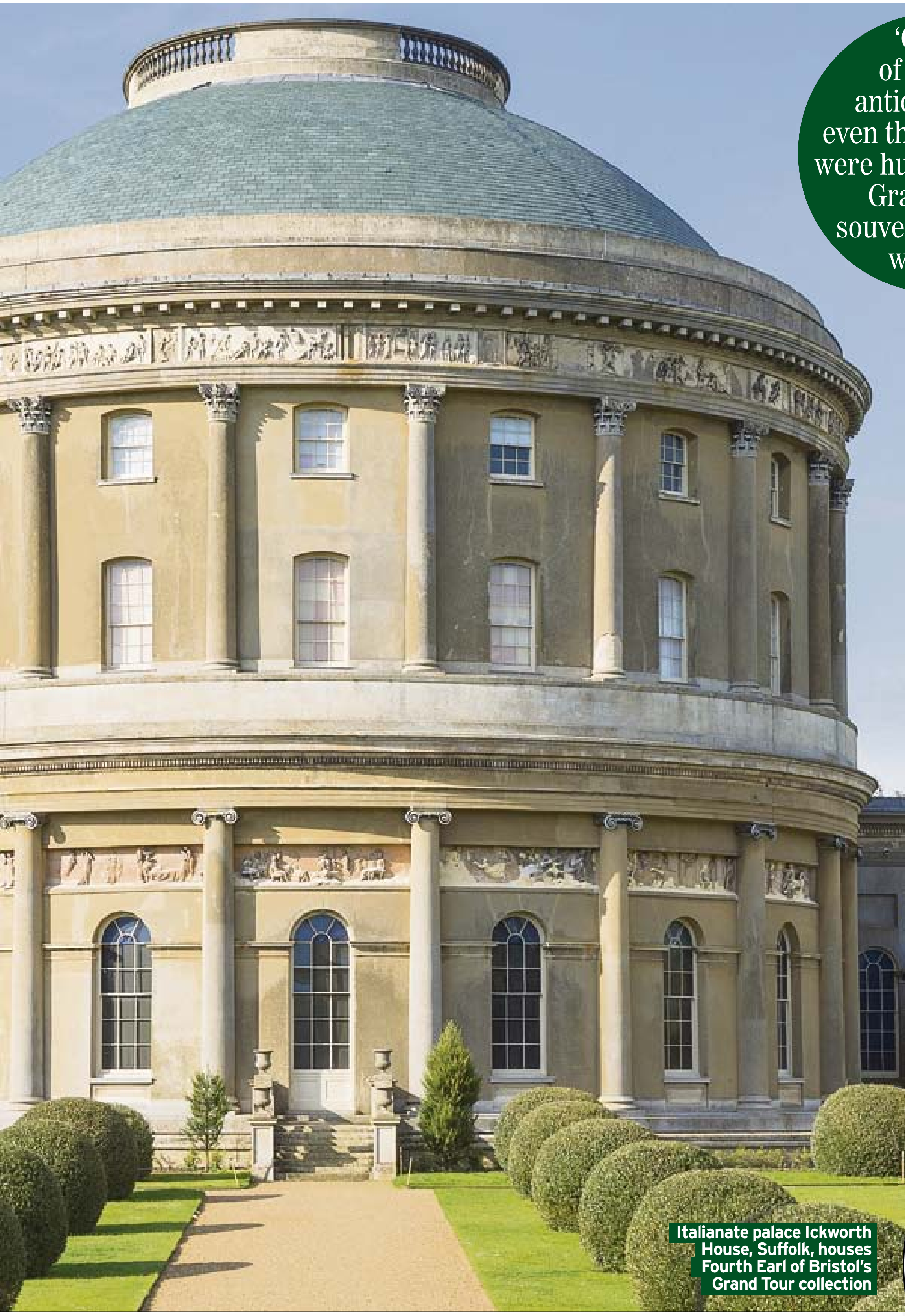
One of the most significant collections of art in the National Trust, amassed over hundreds of years by successive generations of the Percy, Seymour and Wyndham families, can be enjoyed at **Petworth House, West Sussex**. It's celebrated for its holdings of Old Master and British paintings as well as its important collection of sculpture.

Charles Wyndham, 2nd Earl of Egremont, took a Grand Tour during the early 18th century and on his return acquired numerous ancient sculptures through dealers in Italy. Today, these can be seen throughout the house, most strikingly in the North Gallery where they sit alongside neoclassical sculptures and mostly British paintings collected by his son, George O'Brien Wyndham, 3rd Earl of Egremont.

While the Grand Tour was usually made by men, a small number of women also made the journey. In 1784, the Parminter sisters Jane and Elizabeth, their 17-year-old cousin Mary and a friend, Miss Colville, defied convention by packing their trunks and setting off from Devon on an 11-year tour of Europe.

After they returned, Jane and Mary built an extraordinary 16-sided home in 1796, **A La Ronde, in Exmouth, Devon**, with views of the Exe estuary, to house them and their many

Pictures: NATIONAL TRUST IMAGES/JAMES DOBSON/ANDREAS VON EINSIEDEL/HILARY DANIEL/DERRICK E. WITTY/PAUL BAILEY


Italianate palace Ickworth House, Suffolk, houses Fourth Earl of Bristol's Grand Tour collection

> 'Copies of famous antiquities, or even the real thing, were hugely popular Grand Tour souvenirs for the wealthy'

The Roman marble cat and snake statue at Powis Castle

souvenirs. It is filled with curious mementoes of their Grand Tour travels, and handcrafted decorations from shell, feather and paper.

Their collection also includes a small painting of an erupting volcano – in the second half of the 18th century, there was a great interest in seeking out the wonder and awe of nature – and it's possible they visited Mount Vesuvius, on the Gulf of Naples, which was erupting at the time of their tour.

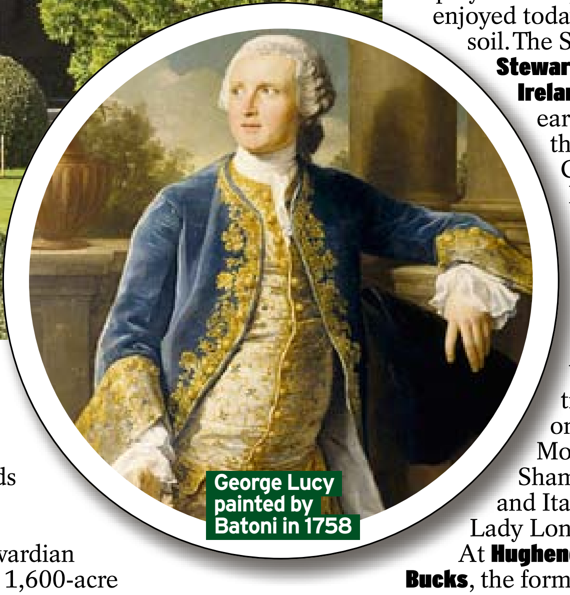
Descriptions endure from many intrepid ladies who ascended it – normally by donkey – of "peering into the abyss" while dodging flying rocks and lava!

The Parminters were not alone in building a home for their souvenirs. Indeed, the Fourth Earl of Bristol, Frederick Hervey, known as the Earl Bishop, built the Italianate palace **Ickworth House in Suffolk** as a home and gallery to house the vast collection of art and treasures he had collected while travelling in Europe. Nothing like it had ever been seen in this country before, and it remains utterly unique to this day. Suffolk's very own Little Italy is also home to an incredible Italianate garden surrounding its rotunda, mixing classical Italy and a touch of drama with a gothic-style stumpery and inspired by Hervey's adventures abroad.

This fabulous Italian 'cassone' chest resides at Blickling Hall, Norfolk

Beningbrough Hall in North Yorkshire was itself inspired by Italy. Although work started on the original house in 1556, the estate was inherited by John Bourchier in 1700 and the current hall was heavily influenced by the Italian architectural style he experienced from his Grand Tour as a young man four years later.

The Mediterranean Garden, a relatively new addition to the estate, nods to that heritage.


George Lucy painted by Batoni in 1758

The Edwardian home and 1,600-acre **Polesden Lacey estate near Dorking**, **in Surrey**, contains the collections of self-made brewing magnate William McEwan, and his daughter Margaret Greville, the redoubtable hostess and last private owner of Polesden Lacey.

She used the Edwardian country house for entertaining rich and powerful guests, and amassed masterpieces by some of the world's greatest and best-known artists, as well as exquisite objects by Cartier and Fabergé, leaving it to the National Trust in her will so that its art collection could be "open to the public at all times and…enjoyed by the largest number of people".

The collection includes world-class paintings by the Old Masters.

While today's tourists might still pick up the odd postcard, Grand Tourists would often purchase paintings or sketches to remind them of their travels. At **Florence Court in County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland**, a set of drawings bought by John Cole, Second Earl of Enniskillen, as a souvenir of his Italian travels accompanied by the artist Franz Kaisermann, includes a spectacular sketch of Rome.

Equally, before photography was invented, it was popular for Grand Tourists to sit for a portrait.

One of the most sought-after artists for young aristocrats was Pompeo Girolamo Batoni (1708 – 1787), and you can see many of his paintings still hanging in National Trust houses today, including George Lucy at the former family home of **Charlecote Park, Warwickshire**. In a letter of April 12, 1758, to Mrs Hayes, a Warwickshire widow, he wrote: "I have shown my face and person to the celebrated Pompeo Battoni (sic), to take the likeness thereof… these painters are great men, and must be flattered; for 'tis the custom here, not to think themselves obliged to you for employing them, but that they oblige you by being employed."

But it wasn't just objects. Ideas and inspiration were carried in the notebooks and heads of travellers; wildlife, plants and insects were all collected, classified, stored and displayed. European vistas that are still enjoyed today were recreated in British soil. The Spanish Garden at **Mount Stewart, County Down, Northern Ireland**, was directly inspired by an early 16th-century description of the Garden of Generalife near Granada in Spain. Its creator, Edith, Lady Londonderry, is considered one of the greatest lady plantsman and garden designers of the 20th century. Take a stroll past tall walls of cypress hedges and marvel at the blue and green palette, based on the hue of Casita tiles. The Spanish Garden is one of several unique sections at Mount Stewart, including the Shamrock Garden, Sunken Garden and Italian Garden, all designed by Lady Londonderry.

At **Hughenden near High Wycombe, Bucks**, the former country home of the statesman Benjamin Disraeli, the 1.5-mile German Forest Walk explores the dark evergreen woods inspired by Disraeli and his wife Mary Anne's visits to the Northern Bohemian forests on the German/Czech border – a stunning mix of woodlands and gently rolling valleys with views across a mixture of grazed and ploughed fields.

As you set off for your own Grand Tour of National Trust properties this year, remember, we've been making do with seeing Europe vicariously for decades.

Claife Viewing Station and **Windermere West Shore, Cumbria**, was built in the 1790s to enable early tourists to admire the view up and down Windermere. This was a time when the French Revolution prevented European travel – so many young aristocrats began touring the Lake District as a substitute for the Swiss Alps.

NEW YEAR, NEW YOU... AT THE National Trust

INDUSTRIAL EVOLUTION

The National Trust is taking museums, monuments and buildings at the UNESCO World Heritage site of Ironbridge Gorge into its care, securing their future and proving once again that Europe's largest conservation charity isn't just about posh stately homes!

AND ERECTED IN THE Y

The Old Furnace at Coalbrookdale is one of the sites taken on by the National Trust

By **Matt Nixson**

IRONBRIDGE in Shropshire is famed throughout the world as the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution and an enduring symbol of the technological progress that contributed to Britain's rapid development as an 18th century manufacturing powerhouse.

From the blast furnace of Coalbrookdale where, in 1708, Abraham Darby perfected iron smelting powered by coke instead of charcoal, to the Iron Bridge itself – the world's first span constructed of iron to showcase new casting technology and opened in 1781 to traffic – the region had a considerable influence on the fields of technology, architecture and manufacturing.

Today, Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site remains globally important, listed by UNESCO, meaning it's recognised internationally as being "of outstanding value to humanity", and the Trust's acquisition, made possible thanks to £9million in funding from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund and Arts Council England, will safeguard its future for generations.

The transfer includes ten iconic museums, a Designated Collection of around 400,000 objects of national importance and 35 listed buildings and Scheduled Monuments. The Trust hopes to grow the number of visitors annually from 330,000 to 600,000. National Trust members can visit as part of their membership once the site opens under National Trust management later this year.

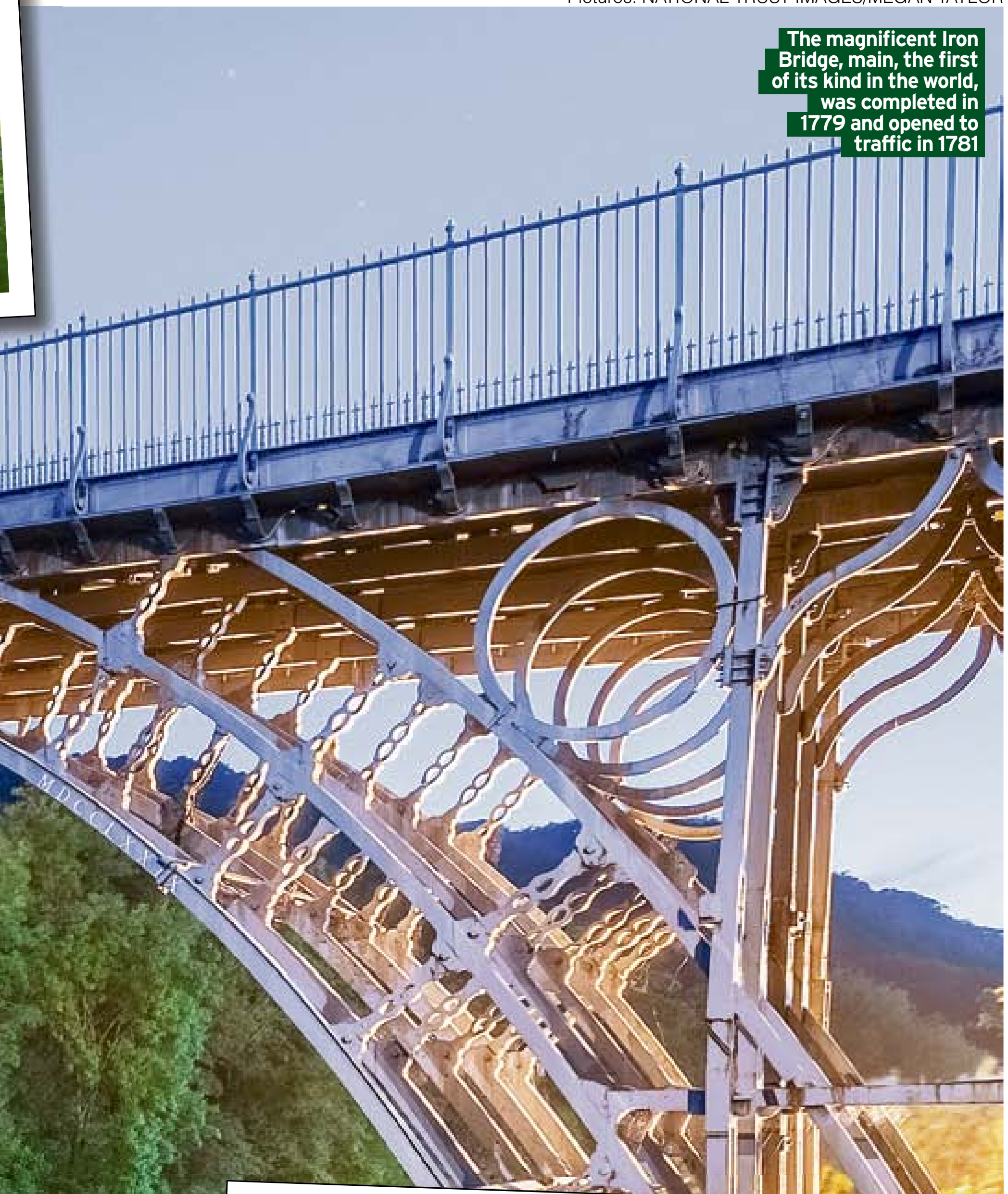
Trust Director General Hilary McGrady explains: "The Ironbridge Gorge is widely regarded as the birthplace of the industrial revolution, which paved the way for the scientific and technological innovation that defines our world today.

"The site is an example of British ingenuity, a source of immense national and community pride and a distinct and much-loved icon of our shared heritage. I cannot think of something more at home in the National Trust's care – an institution built to protect and preserve the things our nation loves on behalf of everyone, everywhere. It's a privilege to be able to work with DCMS and with the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust, which has looked after the site and its collection with care and dedication for many decades, on this next chapter in Ironbridge Gorge's amazing history."

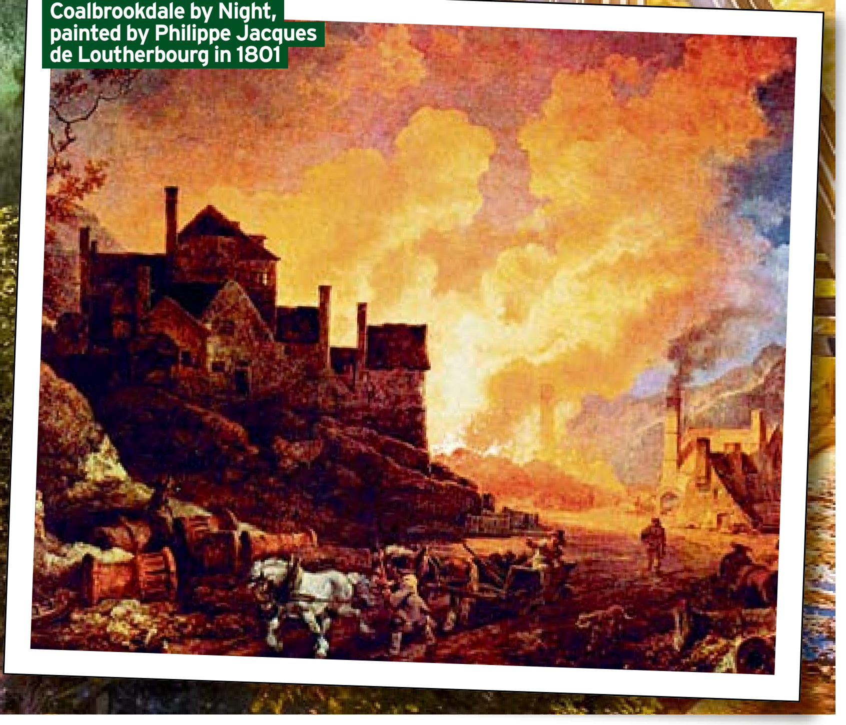
Culture Secretary Lisa Nandy says: "As the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution, it's absolutely vital that the museums in the Ironbridge Gorge are protected as a key heritage

National Trust boss Hilary McGrady

Pictures: NATIONAL TRUST IMAGES/MEGAN TAYLOR



The magnificent Iron Bridge, main, the first of its kind in the world, was completed in 1779 and opened to traffic in 1781



Coalbrookdale by Night, painted by Philippe Jacques de Loutherbourg in 1801

asset in this country and a significant contributor to jobs and the economy in the Shropshire area.

"It's rich with the history of ingenious Britons who designed and constructed so many iconic pieces of engineering – from steam engines to iron boats.

"I have every confidence that this government support will help the National Trust take this area from strength to strength. It will mean it can be enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of visitors for generations, whilst providing children with opportunities to connect with their local heritage as we embark on our plan of national renewal."

The National Trust will be working closely together with the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust during the transition period.

The charity will subsequently work with partners up and down the gorge to collectively care for the area, its buildings and collections, creating a fantastic experience for every visitor and a sense of renewal to the local community.

Mark Pemberton, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust, says: "We're incredibly pleased to have secured the long-term future of the Museum by its transfer to the National Trust. Ironbridge was important as the birthplace of industry and as a major tourist destination it now plays a part in the success of the local economy." It's an industrial evolution!

● *Visit ironbridge.org.uk for information on events and opening hours*

BACK-TO-BACKS, FACTORIES AND SPADE MILLS...

BIRMINGHAM BACK-TO-BACK HOUSES, BIRMINGHAM

Get a flavour of more than 100 years of working people's lives in the second city's last surviving court of back-to-back houses built around a communal courtyard. A pre-booked guided tour of the Grade II-listed properties at "Court 15" takes you from the 1840s to the 1970s, introducing you to the lives of some of the former residents who crammed into these small houses to live and work, often with a shared "brewhouse" for washing and just four toilets for as many as 60 people. With fires alight in the grates and sounds and smells from the past, it's an evocative and intimate insight into a world gone by. The Trust has preserved the Birmingham Back to Backs as examples of the thousands of similar homes that were built around shared courtyards in the expanding industrial town in the 19th century.

QUARRY BANK, STYAL, CHESHIRE

One of Britain's greatest Industrial Revolution heritage sites happens to be set in picturesque gardens, amid lush countryside. The owners and the workers lived and worked side by side at Quarry Bank cotton mill, though in very different styles, as visitors will discover. The home of founder Samuel Greg is a world away from the Apprentice House where the pauper children who worked in the mill lived. Visitors can experience the floors shaking beneath their feet as the spinning machines turn and the looms weave, or they can stroll to Styal, the workers' village which remains a thriving community today.

THE WORKHOUSE AND INFIRMARY, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Built in 1824 as a last resort for the poorest and most vulnerable, this rural workhouse is one of the best preserved and most complete in England. It was designed to house around 160 inmates, who lived and worked in a strictly segregated environment with virtually no contact between the old and infirm, able-bodied men and women and children. As the site developed, the Firbeck Infirmary was added in 1871 to care for those deemed too ill to be housed in the workhouse. Here you can glimpse the beginnings of an emerging healthcare system, as social care evolved. The garden that visitors see today was recreated in 2004 on the site of the original vegetable garden, which once provided food for the inmates and generated an income from the sale of surplus produce.

PATTERSON'S SPADE MILL, COUNTY ANTRIM, NORTHERN IRELAND

You can feel the thunder of the tilt hammer as it strikes red-hot steel, smell the oil and wood shavings and see the belts, governors and flywheels working in harmony at the last remaining water-driven spade mill in daily use in the British Isles. Every tour of Patterson's Spade Mill immerses you in the site's Industrial Revolution heritage – the Patterson family having made spades as far back as 1695 – as steel billets are forged into blades by water-powered hammers and wooden handles take shape on skilfully operated lathes, just as they have been since 1919 when the Mill was founded here on a site that had previously housed a corn mill and a paper mill. You can even be custom-measured for your own hand-crafted spade, a unique keepsake with the distinctive Patterson label.

ERDDIG HALL AND GARDEN, WREXHAM

Sitting on a dramatic escarpment above the winding Clywedog river, Erddig tells the 250-year story of a gentry family's relationship with its staff. A large collection of servants' portraits and carefully preserved rooms capture their lives in the early 20th century. The Yorke family took a personal interest in the lives of their staff and, from 1791, began commemorating them with painted portraits, photographs and poetry hung in the Servants' Hall and corridor. They celebrate loyalty, length of service and hard work and form the most remarkable continuous record of domestic service in any country house in Britain. Upstairs is a treasure trove of fine furniture, textiles and wallpapers. Outdoors lies a fully restored 18th-century garden, with trained fruit trees, exuberant annual herbaceous borders, avenues of pleached limes, formal hedges and a nationally important collection of ivies. Plus rare survivors of the working estate including unique and historic Joiners' Workshop, Smithy, Sawmill and Stables.

LEVANT MINE AND BEAM ENGINE, CORNWALL

High up on the exposed cliffs of the "Tin Coast", the Levant Mine and beam engine are the remains of a fascinating industrial past. Visitors on a pre-booked guided tour can learn of the tin and copper that made Levant extremely wealthy. It is also the site of the oldest Cornish steam-winding engine still working in its original location, where it wound up the ore from underground for 90 years.

BOTALLACK, CORNWALL

Perched high above Cornwall's Tin Coast, Botallack Mine embodies centuries of mining history stretching back to Roman and possibly Bronze Age times. Rich in tin, copper and other minerals, its dramatic landscape was shaped by generations of miners who worked perilously beneath the seabed. The Crowns engine houses, built in the 19th century, remain iconic symbols of Cornish heritage. Under Stephen Harvey James, Botallack thrived in the mid-1800s, employing 550 people and achieving remarkable profits after a major copper discovery. Yet tragedy struck in 1863 when a chain broke in Boscawen shaft, killing nine. The site drew notable visitors, including author Wilkie Collins and, in 1865, the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) and Princess Alexandra, whose tour inspired Victorian tourism. Mining ceased by 1895, but Botallack lives on through preservation, UNESCO recognition in 2006, and its starring role as a location for Poldark, when its rugged beauty captivated audiences.

PENRHYN CASTLE AND GARDEN, BANGOR, GWYNEDD

You can learn about the history of Welsh slate – which once employed some 17,000 workers and produced almost 500,000 tonnes of slate a year, around a third of all roofing slate used in the world in the late 19th century – at Penrhyn Castle. The industry had a huge impact on global architecture with Welsh slate used on many buildings, terraces and palaces across the globe including Westminster Hall in London's Houses of Parliament, the Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne, Australia and Copenhagen City Hall, Denmark. In 1830, half the buildings in New York had roofs made of Welsh slate. Built in the early 19th century, its formidable architecture, opulent interiors and fine art collection lean on a long history of sugar and slate fortunes, social unrest and the longest-running industrial dispute in British history – the Great Penrhyn slate quarry strike of 1900 to 1903. It was a bitter battle between Lord Penrhyn and the slate quarry workers, which ripped apart a community and changed this part of North Wales forever.

NEW YEAR, NEW YOU... AT THE National Trust

FREE FAMILY PASS AT THE National Trust

WORTH UP TO £50

Visitors at Souter Lighthouse and The Leas, Tyne & Wear

Looking for the perfect antidote to the January blues? Whether you love peaceful woodland walks, windswept coastal vistas, or immersing yourself in history and culture, the National Trust has something for everyone.

Thanks to this incredible offer, you can enjoy a FREE visit to a National Trust property of your choice. The pass allows entry for up to 2 adults and 3 children, or 1 adult and 4 children, giving you the perfect excuse to gather your loved ones and explore the great outdoors. This offer is valid at National Trust locations across England, Wales, and Northern Ireland until March 6, 2026. Please note that some properties are excluded, so check the full list at www.reachforms.co.uk/nationaltrust.

Start your year by reconnecting with nature, exploring heritage and making unforgettable memories with family and friends. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to experience the beauty of National Trust sites - completely free!

WHERE CAN YOU VISIT?

Scan the QR code to check participating places, plan your day and book if required.

FREE National Trust FAMILY PASS

VALID UNTIL FRIDAY 6 MARCH, 2026

What's included? Your pass covers standard admission, but doesn't include parking, transport nor events, unless these are included within standard admission. Please note that where National Trust members are asked to pay, this will apply to you too. Passes cannot be used for group admission.

When can you visit? Use this pass once before Friday 6 March 2026 during advertised opening hours.

Who can visit? - A total of 2 adults and 3 children, or 1 adult and 4 children, can use this pass (children not essential). Children are aged 5-17 inclusive. Under 5s visit free and don't count in the total.

Where can you visit? - Only certain places can accept this pass. Scan the QR code on the full page above or visit **nationaltrust.org.uk/using-your-pass** to check participating places, plan your day, and book if required. If you need to pre-book the place you wish to visit, select an 'Affiliate organisation member or passholder' ticket (note - not a paid ticket). Your pass is required as well as your booking confirmation.

Passholders who cannot present the pass, or visit a non-participating place, will be charged the full admission price. You can't sell or share the pass, and only one pass is allowed per household. Full Ts&Cs can be found at **www.reachforms.co.uk/nationaltrust**

HOW TO CLAIM:

Cut out the voucher, *left*, and present at your chosen National Trust location by March 6, 2026, inclusive. Some National Trust properties require advance booking, please check the property website for full details. Certain places are excluded from this promotion, details can be found at www.reachforms.co.uk/nationaltrust

DONATE TO TRUST'S TREE APPEAL

The National Trust is a charity that cares for nature, beauty and history across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Trees are essential for life. They clean the air we breathe, lock up carbon as they grow and provide homes for wildlife. Donate to the National Trust's Plant a Tree Appeal today and help plant and establish 20 million trees by 2030, benefiting wildlife, people and the climate for years to come.

You can dedicate your donation to a loved one either in memory or as a gift and get a customisable certificate to share with them. To make your donation you can visit www.nationaltrust.org. uk/plant-a-tree-now or scan the QR code, *right*. One hundred per cent of your donation will go towards the planting and maintenance of new trees at National Trust places.

This can include the cost of the trees, tree guards, stakes, tools and mulch. The cost of the trees differs according to the size and species, and trees are chosen according to what is in keeping with the area and what will benefit local wildlife at that location. National Trust registered charity number 205846.

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